

# Public Libraries

MONTHLY

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## A Working Philosophy for Librarians\*

Willis H. Kerr, librarian, Kansas State normal school, Emporia

Philosophy is what men live by. It is a working principle. It is our faith. It is our temper toward life and our attitude toward men.

Dr Richard Cabot wrote a book to show that men live by work, play, love, and worship. And long ago in England, Bishop Hooker spoke of God, but evidently meant man also, when he said: "That which moveth God to work is goodness, and that which ordereth his work is wisdom, and that which perfecteth his work is power." Both of them were stating a working philosophy.

A working philosophy for librarians takes account of librarians and books and men. It considers their ideals and their shortcomings. It reckons their goodness, their wisdom, and their power. A good working philosophy ought to make a good librarian a useful engineer of men and books.

The sort of philosophy I am asking of you today is not very abstract. Let us try to stand apart and look at our libraries and our library aims and our library users, and see if we can find some applications of current thinking.

Every one of us has a working principle, whether we have ever formulated it or not. Perhaps it is that very popular theory of opportunism, anything-to-get-by-with, the line of least resistance. I do not believe William James meant all that when he formulated the theory of pragmatism. In our materialistic modern

life he found that principle of doing a thing because it worked, and he refined the crude idea into his pragmatic philosophy. But he never sought to avoid the issue or to overlook the moral and logical basis of things. On the contrary, on the broad base of truth and honesty and good thinking, he advocated principles that would produce results. He would not have us popularize our libraries at the expense of intellectual honesty.

I am not here to defend the pragmatic philosophy, but to point out that many of us have perhaps unconsciously adopted a false pragmatism, an opportunism full of snares for us and our public. When we take pride in our growing circulation, eighty or ninety per cent of which is fiction, are we not letting our pride "get by" with a false value? When we put the 1920 publication date on a catalog card, because it looks more up-to-date than the 1904 copyright date, aren't we fooling ourselves by following the line of least resistance? When a busy man comes to us for a practical book on house-wiring, and we put him off with that book on the lay-out and estimating of house-wiring, we may be filling one of his needs, but not his first need. And he nearly always discovers our opportunism. A real pragmatic philosophy would take us to the bottom of all the uses of a book, whether in its selection, classification, cataloging, or issue.

A working principle which most of us have developed more or less is faith. Faith in ourselves and our job, faith in

\*An address to the Texas library association, November 26, 1920,

books, faith in men. Always we ought to have faith.

Why is it a man or a woman will come clear up to the library, even to the reference desk, and then will try to get a book out of you without telling you what book or what subject? He has faith in the book, but for this very personal problem of his today he is not very sure of the library or the librarian, even though as a citizen he is inordinately proud of the whole institution. May it be that we have not quite gotten it over to Mr Citizen that we have faith enough in ourselves and in our equipment to believe that we can put ourselves in his place and face his problem from exactly his point of view? That we have faith enough in books based on honest knowledge and appraisal to feel that just the right book can be found? And that our faith in man is democratic enough to know that he will accept our service and our books as his very own and that he will even rise above his ordinary comprehension in this matter?

Faith in ourselves and in our job. Not vaingloriousness. Not vaunting arrogance. Not even a-little-better-than-thou. But the simple faith, that is after all the strongest, that we are here for a fundamental human service and that we are putting all the mind and heart we have into that service. A faith that librarianship is a profession worthy of adequate reward. Of such is the kingdom of librarians.

Faith in books. Faith in the single book. If you had seen the young corporal clasp a volume of business law, over in the Paris offices of the A. L. A., exclaiming, "I'll teach the whole damn camp from this one book," you would have more faith in books. If you had seen the Y. M. C. A. secretary from the Luxembourg hills and forests, in those early January days after the armistice, trudge up to the second floor of the Paris A. L. A. headquarters with his little khaki trunk on his shoulders, and heard him say as he put it down, "Well, I've brought this trunk all the way down and I'm going to take it back full of books for my boys!" you'd have moved heaven

and earth, with a thankful heart, to get him those books. Truly, the war did teach us to have faith in books.

And yet our faith in books must not be unreasoning. Veneration of the book is a heritage of the ages when the creation of a book was a mystic, even a holy, act. Our faith in books must be just, and we must be able to make Mr Citizen understand why just *any* book is not the one for him.

Faith in men. The very fact that we believe in public libraries shows that we believe in democracy. Our democratic faith in men should find continual expression in our selection of books. It should cause us to learn by actual count that perhaps there are more people in our town earning a living by selling goods or by tinkering automobiles than by teaching school, and so to influence our book purchasing and our book advertising. Faith in men should cause us to recognize that a child reads away beyond his age or grade, as well as below, and that the adult mind, even in the artisan unaccustomed to mental exercise, is capable of great grasp at times. And you never know the time.

Moreover, a democratic faith in men will count on a wider range of interest in reading than we have thought possible in the past. And having planned on the wider interests, it will get the wider reading. Anyone who had anything to do with the library war service remembers with a thrill the poetry, the drama, the classic fiction, the philosophy, the sociology, the pure and applied science, the biography and history, the religion and ethics, the music and art,—the unprecedented interest in all this. And it was a genuine, fundamental interest. It is still there in those boys and in their fathers and mothers and sisters, if we will but reach out and touch it. That opportunity is the greatest challenge librarians have today.

Modern education has a whole philosophy of its own. Perhaps it is based in the main on the theory of interest, latterly developed into "motivation" and "purposeful activity." It depends upon a still more fundamental function of

human conduct, namely the impulse, for the active putting into effect of the interesting idea or the motivated problem. That is to say, an intellectually-enriched idea or problem tends to, nay, finally does, issue in conduct. All of the educational discussions and developments of the era are based on that fundamental theory of active interest. The investigations of economy of time in education, and of supervised study, and of educational tests and measurements, and of the junior high school, and of visual education,—all take their cue from the effort to enrich the intellectual content of the mind and hence to control the emotions and conduct.

All this pedagogy is cited here to show how great is the educational opportunity of librarians. We simply must recognize that the moral and intellectual enrichment of the mind is a tremendously important human process, and that therefore the supreme opportunity of libraries is educational.

I mean that our opportunity is greater than that of the schools. Even in the periods of elementary school and high school and college education, it is the duty and glorious privilege of public and high school and college and university libraries to furnish not only some mechanical tools for the growing mind, but also *and chiefly* to furnish freely and constructively and unweariedly the ideas that go to make the moral and intellectual content of the mind.

Then when school and college days are over, the public library has an unparalleled active educational responsibility and opportunity. Someone truly says, "Education ought to be co-extensive with life, for it keeps the soul alive." To me, that means in its own way the public library will be just as active, just as skillful, in drawing out and stimulating men's minds and hearts, as the great teacher is with children and young people. It means that our public libraries will grasp the idea that education is a great modern public service, not conducted always in classes and by assignments in textbooks. It means that we shall adopt the working principle that many of the social and economic ills of

the day are to be cured by a pervading, sane, life-giving and culture-giving democratic education, in which books and libraries are to have a good part.

How is a library to be actively educational? Well, the good teacher first knows her children and her subject, then adopts a certain aim for a lesson or a term, then adapts her methods or means to that aim, and then she *works* at it. She does a good deal by her attitude toward her pupil and his task, by her power of suggestion backed by personality. She plays on the interest and the curiosity of the pupil. She makes things as simple as A, B, C and also as elusive as a wraith of fog on the mountain. I presume you would call that scrutable inscrutability.

The library that has gone pragmatically to the bottom of things and arranged its buildings and its staff, and bought and prepared its books, and met its public, so as to produce honest, truthful results has already become actively educational. If it adds to this a genuine faith in itself and its public, it has added good character to good method and has become an active educational institution.

One of the surest ways to be educational is to work *with* people, not just for them, and certainly not at them or to them at all. To be sure, carry the library to them, but in the attitude of "Here's something you and I are interested in," or "Here's a thing you and I ought to do." There's a vast difference between saying, "Are you interested in this?" and "Here's something you and I are interested in." Of course, I realize I have leaped clear over the steps you have to take to get acquainted and to know your man and his interests that well, but that same attitude of approach serves all the way.

Another way to be educational is to have the book before your man knows he wants it. Anticipate his needs. By doing so, you gain the further boon of keeping your own step with his. Better make an occasional mistake in buying a poor or useless book than always to have to say, "Why, yes, Professor, we'll get that book right away," or "Yes, gladly, Mr Boy Scout, we'll buy that book in

our next order, six weeks from next Tuesday." Try, please try, to have the book Mr Professor or Mr Boy wants just when he asks for it.

Another thing, have a little of that "scrutable inscrutability" about your library. Leave something for the imagination of your users, be they children or men and women. Don't get the cart before the horse, and try to teach the use of your library before you have a library. Yes, teach the use,—by degrees, by much personal touch, by much coöperation with teachers, but always with something more around the corner. And why not teach the use, show the use, of the library to the adult public once in a while? Have the club-women one week, and the ad men another time, and be sure to sharpen their curiosity about as much as you inform their minds.

Another way to be educational is to be accurate. Accuracy means logic, system, but not red-tape, I hope. Don't ask me where to draw the line between. It seems to me it is a matter of accuracy, as much as of common sense, to arrange unbound pamphlets or clippings or a mounted picture collection alphabetically by subjects, so that they index themselves. Moreover, it is a matter of cumulative educational accuracy to use the same series of subject-headings in your

card catalog, your magazine indexes, your pamphlet collection, your clipping collection, your picture collection, and your lantern slide collection. It is a matter of accuracy and educational sense in all bibliography to give the copyright or preface date of a book; its date means everything to the real investigator, be he mechanic or philosopher. The practice of reasonable accuracy in a library soon makes an impression which helps in library education.

All good principles sooner or later find expression in action. Having good libraries in most towns and cities makes us want to extend library service to the rural two-thirds of our population. Our democratic faith in men and in equality of opportunity makes us want to extend library service and education to the ninety-five per cent who never go further than high school. Our active educational philosophy will find us the way.

This is an eclectic philosophy. It is offered in full knowledge that it is incomplete, but perhaps it may afford a working foundation for library endeavor. Shall we take comfort from Hamlet, that

There are more things in heaven and earth,  
Horatio,  
Than are dreamt of in your philosophy.

—Hamlet I. 5. 167.

## Engraved Ornament; its Character and Extent\*

Frauk Weitenkampf, chief, Art and Prints division, New York public library

Perhaps this subject seems foreign to libraries? A matter of aesthetic dilettantism far removed from the stern, serious problems of our profession? Let us see. The reason for the present meeting is illustrated in the three exhibitions which have been held successively at the Grolier Club, the New York public library and at the Metropolitan museum. Lloyd Warren, in notes on the material shown at those exhibitions, said:

\*Summary of address delivered at meeting of New York library club, May 14, 1919, the general subject of the meeting being "The Engraved Sources of Design and the Responsibility of the Library."

"The ornamentalist differs from the decorator in that he is the designer of decorative motives which the latter assembles into a harmonious ensemble. From him came the patterns and pattern-books which were widely circulated among the crafts and had an immense influence on the formation of the styles of decoration. The Gothic designs are chiefly for ecclesiastical silver objects. In the Renaissance, Italy and Germany are particularly rich in ornamentalists, Michael Angelo, Raphael, Beham, Holbein, Aldegrever, among many. In the seventeenth century the art is fully developed, France taking the lead, and in

the eighteenth century the artists of all other countries became mere copyists of the French masters.

"This great repertory of art has apparently remained until now virtually unknown in this country to collectors and to students of design. Of late years reproductions of the principal works have been published, the designs of Marot, Berain, Oppenord, Meissonier, La Londe, etc. These facsimiles are not, of course, for the collector, but as 'laboratory material' for the student, they are of great use,—not to be used textually, but as sources of suggestion for the artist."

There's the gist of the whole thing. Engraving began to be used about the fifteenth century to produce patterns for craftsmen in the decorative and applied arts. Many noted names in the history of engraving are identified with this production of patterns. Interesting specialties developed, for example, the Italian lace-pattern books, a number of which have been published in facsimile by Onaglia. Especially in France of the eighteenth century did this production and reproduction of designs reach its full flower.

Now, how is this material available for libraries? There are some general works of prime utility: Guilmard's "Les Maîtres ornemanistes" (1880, 2 vols.), "L'Ornement d'après les Maîtres," by Libonis, and the twenty-odd volumes of the "Formenschatz," which the librarian will be apt to break up and re-arrange by subject. For the larger libraries there are collections of designs, usually limited to a special period, such as Destailleur's "Recueil d'estampes relatives à l'Ornementation des Appartements aux XVI<sup>e</sup>-XVIII<sup>e</sup> Siècles," Reynard's "Ornements des anciens Maîtres des XV<sup>e</sup>-XVIII<sup>e</sup> Siècles;" "Reproductions des Oeuvres de Boucher" (Guerimet); "Décorations intérieures et Meubles, Louis XIII-XIV;" Péquignot's "Ornements, Vases et Décorations" (15 vols.); "Portefeuille historique de l'Ornement" (engraved by Metzmacher, 1841 *et seq.*) These are all collections of reproductions. In the case of individual artists, both the original en-

gravings and reproductions of the same frequently exist. The originals are expensive, and a good reproduction serves the student of design equally well. But, originals or reproductions, the designs should be there for the student, the actual designs from which craftsmen and artists of those days worked and not modern adaptations or compositions.

The number of artists whose work exists in contemporary engravings and in modern reproductions of the same, is large. Classified bibliographies have been printed, such as "Catalogue des estamps d'ornement" (Brussels, 1907), issued by the Royal Belgian Library, and Kata-log der Ornamentstichsammlung" of the Berlin "Kunstgewerbe Museum" (Leipzig, 1894). They cover the field from allegories to weddings, and include embroidery, jewelery, cartouches, in fact every conceivable application of decorative art. These designs today are used to fill orders for period decoration. Apart from that they should serve rather as inspiration. It is not slavish copying that is aimed at, but study and assimilation. The ideals and traditions of the past should not be lost to sight, but it must also not be forgotten that art is the expression of the needs and aspirations of its time, and that we are living in the United States and in the twentieth century.

All this has relation also to the movement for better training of designers, which again is part of the bigger educational movement and the work of reconstruction and preparation.

Where do we librarians come in? There's no use in patting ourselves on the back and talking about our educational influence. We're not an educational institution because we cannot control the studies of our clientele. The best we can do is to have the goods and try to have the best use made of them. Perhaps we can help a little to change the point of view of manufacturers and merchants. When one thinks of all that it means in the light of our industries and foreign trade, one feels almost a Col. Sellers-like impulse to exclaim "There's millions in it."

### With the League of Nations

#### Gallery of the Assembly of the League of Nations

Geneva, Dec. 17, 1920.

The Editor of PUBLIC LIBRARIES:

As per your request in September, we are keeping an eye out for matters of possible interest to readers of PUBLIC LIBRARIES.

The things of most technical interest here at the League of Nations include: 1) the two new libraries of the League, 2) the large percentage of delegates to the Assembly, books by whom or about whom are in our libraries and 3) the matters which concern the spread of ideas by means of the printed word—the library task.\*

#### Libraries of the League

The League of Nations consists, as readers of PUBLIC LIBRARIES know, of an assembly, a council and a secretariat. The secretariat has a dozen or so special departments including the International Court, International Health Organization, etc., etc., and its budget includes the International Labor Bureau, which is, however, quasi independent. The Secretariat and the Labor Bureau both have libraries whose problems are peculiar to themselves. Both are in that happy position of new libraries, starting from the beginning, with free hand for developing their special service.

The main Secretariat library has about 5,000v., organized on the decimal system (Brussels) with a dictionary catalog. The budget for next year, which is to be passed on at this meeting (in a few minutes, as soon as vote on "admission of new states" is finished), calls for: \$14,000, salaries; \$40,000, books; \$7,000, shelving—and doubtless stationery, printing, janitors and other accounts. The 12 members of the staff have salaries appropriated as follows: 1 at \$4,000; 2 at \$2,600; 2 at \$1,800; 3 at \$1,400; 1 at \$1,600; 1 at \$1,460; 2 at \$1,150.

The Secretariat, having accepted the principle that American library methods are, on the whole, best developed,

has put in charge of its main libraries, three well-known and especially competent American librarians: Misses Florence Wilson, Helen Rex Keller and A. C. Bartlett. They are assisted by four Britons, three Norwegians, one Italian and one Pole.

The Labor Bureau library contains nearly 30,000v., of which 5,000 are new and 25,000 of the library of the old Basle labor bureau purchased *en bloc*. It, too, uses the decimal classification (Brussels version and aims at complete dictionary catalog. Its spirit and methods are British, the librarian (Miss Lake) and her assistant (Miss Poole) being English women, but the superintendent of the scientific section, in which the library falls, is American (Dr Royal Meeker) who also built up the Labor library at Washington and is an expert in labor literature.

This library has a staff of about a dozen, which is rather swamped by the problem of 30,000 additions in eight months and new items coming in at the rate of 100 a day but the whole Labor Bureau is a strong and aggressive organization and very much alive to making its library effective.

At present the two libraries, having each the same staff, form a very characteristic contrast. The library of the Secretariat is small but admirably selected with excellent reference and first-aid books and is fully organized as to bound volumes at least, housed in a splendid reading-room with adequate work-rooms and adjoining space which can be readily stacked for any probable number of early accessions. The Labor library, on the other hand, is overgrown and overcrowded, scant in reference books and first-aid, but very rich in reports, periodical sets and ultimate instruments of research.

The Secretariat library is in the "Palace of the Nations," the old Hotel National on the lake front. The Labor library is in the Bureau which is a former boys' school, with rather inadequate and inconvenient rooms back on the hill at Pregny.

The problem put up to these American librarians, of building up a fit library for

the very varied and universal problems of the Secretariat, is an inspiring but somewhat appalling one. To handle an appropriation of \$40,000 for books, with one of \$14,000 for salaries and a staff of 12, is one from which many stout-hearted librarians might rather recoil.

#### The Assembly

It is an interesting thing for an American as a librarian to sit in the gallery, as the correspondent of PUBLIC LIBRARIES does, where with a little craning, he can see the faces of all the delegates, and realize that most, perhaps all, of these men are authors whose printed writings are kept in American libraries, or at least men who, for one reason or another, are well known to American reference librarians. At the end of the front row, for example, is the Belgian delegate, Lafontaine who made his first acquaintance with America in attending the St. Louis A. L. A. meeting. A little farther along in the next row is Balfour. Just back of him, with only Wellington Koo between, is Bourgeois who has the Nobel Peace prize this year. A little farther back and farther over is Nansen and back of him Paderewski. It is said that there are a hundred "jurists" on the floor. Professor Politis of Greece and Professor Huber of Switzerland are excellent speakers. By these, and sitting close back of Huber, is Escallante, who is said to be the leading journalist of Venezuela, and Ferraris of the Antologie, is in the Italian delegation. Haut on one side of Bourgeois is of course a historian and academician as well as a publicist, and Viviani on the other side is the most eloquent of French orators. Add Tittoni and Cecil and you have a floor, brilliant enough in letters and yet these names do not include half of the men. Here also are really distinguished writers.

#### The Assembly proceedings

In general, there has been little that is directly related to the library task and yet one of the first notes struck, and struck by such men as Tittoni, Viviani and Cecil, was the idea that the success of the league and the hope of world peace absolutely depends on intelligent public

opinion. Libraries, which share with the press and the pulpit the responsibility of spreading the accepted ideas of mankind, must note this point.

The League's own conduct toward publicity is a chapter in itself, too long for a letter, but to say the least, its managers have not made the best possible use of the more than 200 correspondents who crowd the galleries, nor have they been hospitable to suggestions of propaganda methods, not even wide awake to the value of free distribution of their literature to libraries, altho they are now taking up this last matter more systematically.

The interest of the meetings to a librarian, in his ordinary capacity as a human being and an American, has steadily increased from the first to the present which is the twenty-ninth plenary session. The questions of amendments, disarmament, the admission of small states, mandates, together with the great question of the United States entering the League, with the withdrawal of the Argentine delegates in the background, have been at times of intense interest. Cecil is easily the strongest moral force here and it is due largely to his persistent and insistent following up, that there has been steady progress during the session in the matter of mutual adjustment and in the turning off of concrete business such as it is. It is clearly a disappointment to him that the weightier matters of the law were sidetracked, but he has done his loyal best to make the mint and cummin of the best possible brand and he has pulled off a few real things.

The one thing which seems clear is that the United States was quite right not to come in and that the League whose covenant could not be changed by an "i" or a "t" had to be killed. That league is dead and this one has at least a consciousness of the fact that the covenant is really unworkable and interestingly enough, it is Article 10 which yesterday and today, in the matter of the admission of small nations, obviously has shipwrecked it.

I am not prepared to dogmatize as to whether the United States should "come

in" or not but it looks now as if much useful detail had been worked out which could be used in a reformed league. For myself, I earnestly hope that Congress will set its best brains at the job of finding the real thing in the way of a method of binding the world over to keep the peace.

\* \* \*

December 19, 1920.

Sessions ended last night. It is of interest that the very last act was to adopt after a very lively fight, a resolution introduced by Senator LaFontaine on the "organization of intellectual labor."

ERNEST CUSHING RICHARDSON.

#### Where Honor is Due

Dear Editor of PUBLIC LIBRARIES:

On page 31 of the January number of PUBLIC LIBRARIES an extract from Mr Marron's address reads: "In Durham county, a Carnegie building is now being erected for a library which will be maintained by the city and county together." This tells the truth but not *all* the truth. Since 1914, Durham county has had an appropriation from the Board of County Commissioners for county library service. In 1914, the amount was \$400 per year. It is now \$1,333.33 and we are expecting an increase upon the completion of the new building. We maintain collections for various industrial plants in the suburbs and in many of the county schools. The county is small and the residents live in easy access to the library and are thus enabled to come to the library and make their own selections. We furnish collections anywhere in the county where they are asked for. As yet, we have no book wagon or regular route. We expect to develop the county work more thoroly after we get into the new building. The work has been very slow on the building but we are expecting to get in by March 1.

I am writing you this in order that Guilford may not run off with all the honors. This matter of county extension has been rather uphill work and

I want Durham to have the credit due her, even if she can not lay claim to such splendid work as Guilford.

MRS LILLIAN B. GRIGGS,  
Librarian.

Durham, N. C.

#### For the Asking

Editor of PUBLIC LIBRARIES:

Please announce in the next number of PUBLIC LIBRARIES that the reprint of the summary of existing county library laws prepared by W. J. Hamilton of the Indiana library commissions for the meeting of the Library commissions at Colorado Springs, June, 1920, may be obtained by writing to Miss Anna May Price, secretary of the Illinois library extension commission, Springfield, Illinois.

Signed. JULIA A. ROBINSON.

#### Sectional Conferences

Dear Editor of PUBLIC LIBRARIES:

Apropos of a recent editorial! Just supposing that you were a librarian in a Nebraska town—there are only two such of over 20,000—or, an assistant in one of the libraries of those two bigger places and you wanted terribly to be a real librarian with real library spirit. You would always attend your state association meetings. They would be planned largely for the people from the smaller places. There would be one, or at most, two speakers from out of the state, inspirational or informative. The same people would appear on the program pretty often. You would meet a few people with your own problems, probably, possibly not. You would be glad you went, of course, but you would go home just aching to go to A. L. A. and A. L. A. meets pretty close to one coast or the other so much of the time! Once in a while it comes nearer and you go, and decide that at any cost you must go oftener, but you can't, for nobody else pays the way for you and you simply can't afford the long trip when the time comes. That's part of the Mississippi Valley. The situation can not be so very different in Iowa, Missouri, Kansas.

But why should these states not have a joint meeting once in three or four years, bring in a dozen or more leading librarians from outside, have enough library workers of a kind together to make a round table, give everybody the opportunity to know the library workers of the neighboring states, and some others, and many perhaps of the folks they might meet at A. L. A., and to receive the inspiration of the larger crowd?

I can't see how it could hurt anybody and I do believe it might help some of us.

NEBRASKA INARTICULATE.

### As It Is Reported

Dear PUBLIC LIBRARIES:

It is noted in the New York papers that Charles Ponzi, quick rich schemer, has been assigned to the library in which he is now confined in Plymouth, Mass., where he will catalog the books of the jail library. It is stated that as a young man, he had performed duties of this nature for a university.

An eastern librarian, commenting on this fact, states that no matter how far a librarian may fall, there are still jobs open to him. The influence of such jobs on the average compensation must be quite pernicious. This working for board and lodging only will bring the average compensation down considerably. Is this not a matter for the Library Workers' association to consider? Or better yet, the Library Workers' Union?

NEW YORK LIBRARY WORKER.

\* \* \* \*

My dear Miss Ahern:

I am sure that you will be interested in the following extract from a letter written by a young woman who teaches in a Northern Wisconsin town:

I am glad that I made the change. This town has a good library and that alone is worth a hundred dollars a year to me. It is but a one-room library and the book collection is comparatively small, but the librarian's skill in the use of books, and the splendid personal service she gives my students and me, results in the best library co-operation I have ever had.

Why can't we all be like that "small library"?

E. C. T.

### U. S. Civil Service Examination

The United Civil Service Commission, Washington, D. C., are asking those interested in the subjects named below to apply for permission to enter the examinations: 1) Historian, salary, \$4000; duties, to edit and revise material for the publication of the history of the air service; 2) Research and editorial assistants, salaries, \$2400-3000; duties, to prepare in form for publication, material to be gathered and assembled from reports of field officers, from periodicals and various publications, and from other sources, along the lines of vocational education. Applicants should apply for form 2118 stating the title of the examination required. Applications must be on file in the Civil Service Commission, Washington, D. C., on March 1, 1921.

### Change of Base

Notice from Marian C. Manley, executive secretary of the Library Workers' association, states that owing to many appeals for sectional headquarters for better points of contact and knowledge of conditions in various parts of the country, they have decided to act on the suggestion. The first move will be to the Middle-West. The address of the Library Workers' association after February 1, or until further notice, will be Public library, Sioux City, Iowa. This is made possible by the kindness of Mr Sumner.

### An Interesting Suggestion

I am planning to attend the A. L. A. this summer and while in the East, I would like very much to get a position in some library, if possible, filling someone's place during vacation. I believe it would be even of more benefit to me, coming from the Middle-West, to actually work in the East for a few weeks, rather than hastily travel around for only a couple of weeks, and like a great many other librarians, the where-with-all must be considered. I shall be at liberty from the time of the A. L. A. meetings until about August 1, but would like the last two weeks of July to visit Washington and other points of interest on my return home.

I shall be grateful if you can put me in touch with some one who would be interested in my plans.

The writer's address will be given on application to PUBLIC LIBRARIES.

Monthly—Except August  
and September.

## Public Libraries

M. E. Ahern, Editor

6 No. Michigan Avenue  
Chicago, Illinois

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Contributions for current numbers of *PUBLIC LIBRARIES* should be in hand by the fifteenth of the month previous to the appearance of the magazine. Advertisements for which proof is not required can be accepted as late as the twenty-second of the previous month.

### Reclassification of Government Service

THE question of reclassification of government library service in connection with other forms of government is up for discussion again in a bill No. 15225 introduced by Representative F. R. Lehlbach of New Jersey.

To recapitulate the situation briefly, it is this: When the Reclassification commission was pursuing its investigation, it asked various departments and bureaus of the government service to establish salary committees to study the question of salaries, and to make recommendations based on requirements and services rendered. Every one supposed that these recommendations which had been received with great favor by the commission, would surely be adopted. When the report of the commission was published, however, it was found that the salaries showed only a slight advance over existing salaries. It was generally understood that when certain members of Congress had received some intimation of the increases contemplated in the original report, they declared that Congress would not consider such advances. As there was very little time left in which to make systematic changes, it seemed that the commission simply took existing salaries and added from 10 to 20 per cent.

The report and the bill which embodied the recommendations of the report, satisfied no one and it was felt that revision was necessary. At the time, librarians, altho they fared worse than any other branch of the service, joined with the other classes in the service and recommended the adoption of the report and the passage of the bill. The determination to revise met with approval on all sides and the committee on library salaries resumed its work. The final results of the revision are embodied in the Lehlbach bill which is considered by every one a great advance on the first bill introduced. This bill treats librarians with greater fairness than any other measure which has been proposed and altho it still leaves something to be desired, it is the best to be hoped for at this time.

The bill provides a starting salary for many of the library workers of \$1080, a sum too low to attract competent persons for library work. A junior library assistant works five years as such before becoming a library assistant, where he must work four years before assuming a full professional status—a term of nine years and altogether too long a period for best results.

Whatever the friends of librarians are willing to do, should be done at once in advocating the passage of this bill. Its passage would have wide-spread good effect on the library service all over the

country. It is expected that the committee will give some hearings on this bill in the near future when those sections relating to the library service can be improved.

### Library Spirit

**O**NE of the strong librarians of the country sent a letter like the following to the publicity man of the institution. It is quite in keeping with the actual practice of that librarian, who modestly asks that his name be not used.

"I wish you would help me get the idea across, in your publicity work and in other ways, that the whole personnel of the staff of this library is behind all our service. If Miss —— or Mrs —— or I prepare a list which proves useful and gets into print, or if the library happens to have just the books needed for a certain piece of work, it is the result of several factors, but especially: 1) The administration has provided modestly but adequately for the up-building of the library, ever since it started, and has allowed the library to develop its own policies. 2) Good teamwork by the staff, in which I would mention the work of Miss —— as classifier and cataloger, of Miss —— and Miss —— at the loan desk, of Miss —— in the school department, of Miss —— in the reference room,

of Miss —— and Miss —— in the bibliographic and order and extension work whenever called on, of the assistants in all these departments, and of Mr ——, our janitor.

"The —— gives me credit for the —— list. Our manuscript says, "Compiled by —— library," etc. As a matter of fact, the annotations and bibliographical work were done by Miss ——, with a few suggestions from me as to items included and form of annotation.

"I don't know just what you can do about all this, but I want everyone to know that the 'head librarian' does not by any means do all the work of —— library nor does he want for himself any credit that belongs to the library and its staff."

There are other librarians who might be cited for having this same feeling and where that spirit prevails, its effects are seen in the fine *esprit de corps* in the library staffs, from chief to janitor, and in the enthusiastic approval of the public in the library's work.

### Where is the Laugh?

**A**RECENT newspaper article assumed to tell of the queer questions the public library attendants of that city had to answer. The article was intended to be humorous and it probably would be so to one entirely separated from any connection with the circumstances of the story. But, who would that be? Not the public in the case, whose taxes supported the library and who technically, at least, had a right to ask for any information it might think it wanted. Not the library

attendant who was the employe of the public whose rights and privileges, whose eccentricities of appearance, manners and questions he was ethically bound to respect so long as they did not overstep the bounds of propriety. Not the library itself, which could not exist if the public did not support it. Not the newspaper nor its reporter, for incongruity, absurdity, inaccuracy and sometimes downright ignorance is its rule today in most of what it offers.

So who shall laugh? And why should

anyone laugh at the circumstances enumerated? They are not really funny, measured by any principle of humor. The inquirer probably made the mistake of considering the attendant, as a human being, interested in other human beings, and addressed a human interest question to him as such. The writer made the mistake, recently, in a reference room of asking for information from one who might be expected to be an intelligent, prop-

erly trained attendant, only to find the question was addressed to a rude, ill-informed *person* under circumstances for which there was no redress.

The story related in P. L. 25:251, gives testimony that absurdity lies sometimes in the answer as well as in the question.

It may be truly said that the complexities of utensils even outside of kitchens are very frequently in accord.

### The Smith-Towner Bill

**T**HE Smith-Towner bill creating a department of education and providing federal aid to the states for the promotion of education has been favorably reported by the House committee. Several amendments offered by the author of the bill have been adopted.

One notable amendment provides that the Bureau of Education and such other boards, bureaus and branches shall later be transferred to that department as Congress may determine should be administered by it. Another amendment provides specifically that courses of study,

explanations and methods for carrying out the purpose and provisions of the act within a state shall be determined by state and local educational authorities. This removes grounds for fear of Federal control of the public schools. The secretary of education is denied by the bill the right to exercise any authority whatever with regard to the administration of education within the states, his power being limited to seeing that appropriations for particular purposes shall be spent for the purpose for which they are appropriated by Congress.

### The Understanding Man—Senator McLean

**L**OOK in the *Congressional Record* of January 14! There will be found one of the most intelligent presentations of a public service that that valuable publication has presented for many a long day. It is the speech of Senator George P. McLean of Connecticut on the Library Information Service bill. Senator McLean in his speech showed a broad grasp of the idea of library service that is as unusual in a public speaker as it is gratifying to the library craft and to this

latter it is most heartening. His admirable presentation of the value of the proposed service and the wide knowledge of the possibilities of library service he showed in speaking of it, are in decided contrast beside the lack of intelligence or even plain knowledge of libraries on the part of some of his colleagues.

Library workers must jot down in their book of remembrances, the fine appreciation of their field shown by Senator McLean of Connecticut.

### Is Librarianship a Profession?

DOES library work deserve to be called a profession? Considering this as a general proposition, an affirmative answer may be given. Analyzing it in its component parts and its relation to the other professions, there are some negative elements in the answer. The definition of a profession asserts that it is a collective body of persons engaged in a calling in which these persons professing to have acquired some special knowledge by way either of instructing, guiding or advising others in some art, make such systematic application of their knowledge or skill as will produce desirable results.

The three factors or perhaps four which must be considered in analyzing results in library service are trustees, chief librarians and library assistants (this last a most inadequate title) and, perhaps the public.

Apply our definition first to the trustees. As one views those who have become known at meetings of the A. L. A. or recalls those who have spoken for their cause in state meetings or who by their presentation of the library's claim for public support in local circles, may be credited with local conditions of library service, is an emphatic affirmative the reply to the question? In some instances, most certainly it is, in others, just as certainly not. We need not go into detail here. Every library worker, chief and assistant, if he is intelligently honest, knows the answer.

When the chief librarian comes to the stand, it may be asked, is he full of faith in the power of organized service? Does he create faith in his power and right to direct, not only his institution but his staff, to encourage and to enlarge their opportunity and just recompense for work well done? Is he worthy of their faith in his word and knowledge and their belief in his in-

tegrity in all things, at all times and in all places? Does he see in his chosen collection of books the opportunity to help his fellow-men to live rich, meaningful lives, whatever their surroundings may be, as he holds for the right use of the library despite the vagaries of the unknowing? Does he grow, adding to his "faith virtue and to virtue knowledge and to knowledge temperance and to temperance patience," realizing that he that lacketh these things is blind and can not see?

The assistant, likewise, realizing that it is the common weal that he serves, both within and without the library and in no wise is he to be a time server nor an eye servant, earns and deserves his title of professional worker or, dead wood.

When a library worker is simply a machine, working at such and such a rate per month, the community is wasting its substance or worse because of the lack of what it might have of better things.

The public seeing the library as a place of light, a place of hope and helpfulness for the whole community, great and small, rejoices in its possession and expresses that joy in an earnest support of and a grateful belief in what he sees of its work.

No community in this country but can better afford to give itself high grade library service at a high price than to take low grade library service at a low price. The preparation, the vision and the outlook which a good salary may provide, will turn back into the community itself, these same qualities, while a machine without them will grind out below even its own equipment leaving no impress, and is the most extravagant high cost possible.

The answer to these questions clearly defines the ground on which librarianship deserves to be called a profession. It deserves it on no other.

**A. L. A. Meeting Place, 1921**

In answer to the question as to why the next meeting of the A. L. A. is held at Swampscott, the following facts might be cited:

There still prevails in the ranks of the membership of the A. L. A., a disinclination to hold the annual meetings in cities on account of the distraction of interest which city attractions afford.

The present high hotel rates are rendered still more undesirable to accept because of the increased patronage of such hotels by people whose exit from the cities begins by the middle of June. Few resorts away from the coast are large enough to accommodate the association in its present membership. Two or three cordial and desirable invitations were received from the South, but here, on account of summer patronage and very largely the season's temperature, hotel accommodations could be secured only early in the season at a time most inconvenient for the large majority of the members.

The Executive Board considered the matter very carefully, obtaining all information possible relating to every invitation and finally, as the best thing for the association in its full capacity, decided on the Ocean House, Swampscott, Mass. This hotel is a comparatively short distance north of Boston and at the time chosen, its hotel accommodations will be very largely at the command of the A. L. A. attendants. From illustrations and descriptions of the hotel and surroundings, a very attractive meeting place is promised and it is well worth while to begin to plan now for a delightful outing as well as a profitable meeting June 20-27.

This will be the first time the A. L. A. has had its meeting in this vicinity since 1901 and it is to be hoped that a large number of the rank and file of the membership of the A. L. A. will be present to support and advance the administration of the third woman to be chosen president of the A. L. A. and the first one to preside within the confines of the United States.

**A New A. L. A. Committee**

The Executive Board of the A. L. A. has created a new committee on Library coöperation with other countries, which will have subcommittees on Latin America, Children's libraries in Belgium and France, and the Far East. The members of the committee are:

Miss Mary Eileen Ahern  
W. W. Bishop  
Alexander Calhoun  
Miss Jessie Carson  
Mrs Theresa West Elmendorf  
Dr Peter H. Goldsmith  
Frederick C. Hicks  
Miss Cornelia Marvin  
Miss Annie Carroll Moore

The committee on International Relations, which deals with the "larger aspects of our international relations," will have the same membership as last year, namely:

Herbert Putnam  
E. H. Anderson  
R. R. Bowker  
W. N. C. Carlton  
John Cotton Dana  
T. W. Koch  
George H. Locke  
E. C. Richardson

**Salaries Increase**

At its December meeting, the Board of Trustees of the Tacoma public library adopted the following salary schedule for the year 1921 and revised its rule relative to salary increases as follows:

If service is satisfactory in every way, salary increases may be considered as ordinarily automatic within a given grade, provided that in the judgment of the Board the budget will permit the increase.

The new salary schedule adopted beginning January 1, 1921, is as follows:

	Monthly	Annual
Heads of departments	\$130-175	\$1,560-2,100
Heads of divisions		
Branch librarians	105-130	1,260-1,560
First assistants		
Senior assistants	100-120	1,200-1,440
Junior assistants	75-100	900-1,200

Hereafter annual increases when granted shall be uniform thruout the staff and at the rate not to exceed \$90 per year.

The budget of the library for the year 1921 will total \$60,834.

**Milwaukee, Wis.**

The new salary schedule of the Milwaukee public library which went into effect January 1, 1921, carried general salary increases and added several special features to the classification scheme. The schedule is as follows:

Grades—	Rank in grade						By special action and for special excellence.	Junior assistants (Apprentices)
	1	2	3	4	5	6		
Grade I..	\$ 60.00	\$ 62.50	\$ 65.00	\$ 67.50	\$ 70.00	\$ 75.00	.....	..... Junior assistants (Apprentices)
Grade II..	80.00	82.50	85.00	87.50	90.00	95.00	.....	..... Senior assistants, junior catalogers.
Grade III..	100.00	102.50	105.00	107.50	110.00	115.00	.....	..... Advanced senior ass't. Senior catalogers, Junior reference ass't. Junior br. Ins.
Grade IV..	120.00	122.50	125.00	127.00	130.00	135.00	\$145.00 \$155.00	Sr. br. l., Sr. ref. ass't. Heads of divisions.
Grade V..	140.00	145.00	150.00	155.00	160.00	165.00	170.00	175.00 Chief cataloger, Director of training class, Head of book selection.
Grade VI..	160.00	170.00	180.00	190.00	195.00	200.00	225.00	250.00 Reference ln. Mun. ref. ln.
Grade VII..	200.00	215.00	230.00	240.00	250.00	275.00	.....	..... Director of extension, Ass't city ln.

Automatic promotion in first four grades semi-annually, July and January.

Automatic promotion annually in January in Grades V, VI, and VII.

Special features in the new schedule are the inclusion of two new ranks with extra compensation above the six regular ones in grades IV, V and VI to which the members of the staff with long periods of service in this position are entitled to be promoted by special action of the library board for special excellence in their work; creation of the position of advanced senior assistant to allow promotion of competent persons where there are no special departmental or branch positions to be filled, and the higher rating of branch librarians. Junior and senior assistants are retained at the old salary scale, for the purpose of stimulating them to better work and fitting themselves for higher positions. With this in view, original and promotional examinations for nine classes are being held during the last week in January. All examinations are given under the direction

**Some Biographies of 1920****Tacoma, Wash.**

- Arthur, Sir G.** Life of Lord Kitchener, 3 vols.  
**Asquith, M.** Margot Asquith: an autobiography, 2 vols.  
**Bishop, J. B.**, ed. Theodore Roosevelt and his time, 2 vols.  
**Carnegie, A.** Autobiography.  
**Clark, C.** My quarter century of American politics, 2 vols.  
**Deschanel, P.** Gambetta.  
**Drew, M. G.** Mrs Gladstone.  
**Firkins, O. W.** Jane Austen  
**Fisher, J. A. F.**, First baron. Memories and records, 2 vols.  
**Fleury, M.**, comte. Memoirs of the Empress Eugenie.  
**Howe, M. A. D.** George von Lengerke Meyer.  
**Klein, H.** Reign of Patti.  
**Lane, R. W.** Making of Herbert Hoover.  
**Martin, E. S.** Life of Joseph Hodges Choate, 2 vols.  
**Scott, Sir P. M.** Fifty years in the royal Spender, H. Prime minister.  
 navy.—*Bulletin, Berkley, Calif.*

### German Discrimination Abates<sup>1</sup>

The German system of discrimination against foreign book-buyers has weakened. This is the outstanding fact of the past six months—a fact that makes a big difference in the way an American librarian should manage importations.

The scheme split the German book trade from the outset. In general, it was retailer against publisher, and the former yielded sullenly to the proclamation of January 15, 1920, only after long contest. Yielded to the proclamation, but for the most part did not obey it.\* This continued till the end of March.

The fortunes of American libraries during this period varied according to the agent employed. If he had affiliations with proponents of the measure, we paid the piper. Otherwise, not.

On April 1, the Government took charge and has since enforced compliance, by forbidding export without affixture of its stamp, which is refused unless the bill submitted shows compliance with required rates.

During April and May the scheme was carried out to the letter, while the world protested. At first the foreign price was about six times the domestic, but as the mark rose in value, this factor dropped before the end of May to 2.7.

But the foreign protests were effective, trade dwindled rapidly, the German dealers cried out in the daily press, till the authorities gave way. At the present the schedules<sup>2</sup> are marked down exactly 50 per cent.

In order that libraries may reap full advantage, it must be remembered that the middle-man lives on the discounts given him by the publisher. An average one is 25 per cent. Thus in normal times an American agent receives \$6 on a consignment of books listed at 100 marks.

<sup>1</sup>Condensed from the original report, prepared by Dr Raney, important for those interested in foreign periodicals but applying largely to that class alone.—*Editor of P. L.*

<sup>2</sup>Here follows a minute exposition of conditions and comparative tables.

The fluctuation of the mark makes a difference because the agent must have his usual profit, since he is handling the same amount of material and paying the same freight. If the value of the mark declines, one-half of the extra \$3 must come from his client and the customer must give his agent enough to settle with the publisher and \$6 besides. It must be remembered that all his operations cost more than formerly.

A distinction is drawn between books antiquarian and otherwise. The former are exempt from the decree and the tax is lower to the agent also. It is but fair to add that the term "antiquariat" is elastic in the hands of agents.

A library loses money whenever it imports the books of one country thru an agency of another whose money has a higher exchange value. Thus, Italian books cost more if ordered from Paris, Scandinavian from London, Belgian from Holland, and German from any of these or New York, for the dollar is at the peak of international exchange. As long as this condition holds, direct buying everywhere will remain profitable. No library should pay for 1921 periodicals in advance more than 17½ cents a shilling, 6 cents a French franc, 4 cents a lire, 14 cents a peseta, plus transportation, or 6 cents a mark, delivered at the door.

\* \* \* \* \*

The present committee is specifically charged by President Tyler with the duty of aiding the libraries in the difficult matter of importations. They propose, accordingly, not a conference report merely, but a service. The present statement lays the foundation. Other brief ones will follow from time to time. Send in your problems. We shall try to solve them. The presence of two public librarians will insure attention to domestic trade as well and secure continuity of policy.

M. LLEWELLYN RANEY,  
ANNA G. HUBBARD,  
PURD B. WRIGHT,  
A. L. A. Committee on Book Buying.

## Changed Titles\*

- Bojer, Johan.** Treacherous ground; trans. from the Norwegian by Jessie Muir. Lond. Sidgwick, 1912.  
Republished in 1920 by Hodder & Stoughton, as Our kingdom.
- Brereton, Frederick Sadleir.** On the road to Bagdad, a story of the British expeditionary force in Mesopotamia.  
Same book pub. under title On the road to Bagdad, a story of Townshend's gallant advance on the Tigris.
- Burke, Thomas.** Out and about London. N.Y. Holt, 1919.  
Same book pub. under title Out and about, a note-book of London in war-time. Lond. Allen & Unwin, 1919.
- Deming, Mrs Therese (Osterheld).** 1874. American animal life; with twenty-four full-page colorplates after paintings in water-color, by Edwin Willard Deming, and with stories by Therese O. Deming. N.Y. Frederick A. Stokes company, c1916.  
Also published in two separate volumes with titles: Four-footed wilderness people and Animal folk of wood and plain.
- Frankau, Gilbert.** Peter Jameson, a modern romance. N.Y. Knopf, 1920.  
Pub. in London, by Hutchinson, 1920, under title Peter Jackson, cigar merchant.
- Fulton, John,** 1834-1907. Palestine: the Holy Land as it was and as it is, by John Fulton. . . . Philadelphia, H.T. Coates & co., 1900.  
An abridgement of the author's work issued 1891 under title: The beautiful land. Palestine as it was and as it now is.
- Grant, Joseph W.** My first campaign. Boston, Wright & Potter, printers, 1863.  
Also published, Providence, 1865, with author's name, under title. The flying regiment. Journal of the campaign of the 12th regt. Rhode Island volunteers.
- Grierson, Elizabeth Wilson.** Book of Edinburgh for young people.  
Same book pub. under title Children's book of Edinburgh.
- Hawkins, Anthony Hope** (Anthony Hope, pseud.). Secret of the tower. N.Y. Appleton, 1919.  
Pub. in London, by Methuen, 1919, under title Beaumaroy home from the wars.
- Higgins, Sydney Herbert.** Dyeing industry; being a third edition of "Dyeing in Germany and America." 1919.
- Ludendorff, Erich von.** Ludendorff's own story, August, 1914-November, 1918. N.Y. Harper, c1919.  
Same book pub. in London under title My war memories, 1914-1918.
- Maxwell, William Babington.** Life can never be the same. Indianapolis, Bobbs-Merrill, c1919.
- Same book pub. in England under title The Great interruption.
- Shedlock, Marie L.** comp. Collection of eastern stories and legends. 1910.  
New & enl. edition pub. under title Eastern stories and legends. c1920.
- Shorter, Clement King.** George Borrow and his circle. Lond. Hodder, 1913.  
Republished in 1920, by Dent, in their "Wayfarer's Library," as "The Life of George Borrow."
- Smith, Mrs Annie S. (Swan).** As others see her; an Englishwoman's impressions of the American woman in war time. Bost. Houghton, 1919.  
Pub. in London, by Oliphant, in 1919, under title America at home, impressions of a visit in war time.
- Van Dyke, Henry, D.D.** 1852. Poetry of Tennyson; with a new preface. Ed. 10 rev. & enl. 1905c 1889-98.  
Republished in a rev. edition, in 1920, under title Studies in Tennyson.
- White, John.** History of a voyage to the China sea. Bost. Wells, 1823.  
Same book pub. under title Voyage to Cochinchina. Lond. Longman, 1824.
- Woodward, Robert Pitcher.** Trains that met in the blizzard, a composite romance: being a chronicle of the extraordinary adventure of a party of twelve men and one woman in the great American blizzard, March 12, 1888, by R. Pitcher Woodward; with . . . New York, Salmagundi publishing company, 1896.  
Published later under title Frozen humor.

## \*To Keep Faith with the Fallen

If ye break faith with us who die,  
We shall not sleep—

## V

The public has a way of running to one book and often a large group will be after that one book at the same time. Several numbers of that very popular book might, of course, increase its popularity still further. But I frequently find that one volume is all one library contains.

Of course, popularity in anything is not *all* a matter of advertising, but I am sure that in many instances advertising has a great deal to do with it.

It might be an interesting experiment to take one of the books of the day which carries wholesome ideas and is simply

\*A series of letters in answer to the query sent out by PUBLIC LIBRARIES as to what work can be done in public book service to help the American people to see right, to think straight and to go forward.

\*From Brooklyn public library.

written—say a “Life of Roosevelt” or some treatise on the League of Nations—and advertise it thoroughly in a small district in the newspapers of the town and on bill-boards and get it going in some woman’s club. If there were several copies in the library, it seems to me it would not be so very difficult to get the whole unthinking element of the town to reading that book!

Do libraries ever send books out by messenger allowing the public to pay the messenger at the home? In response to a telephone call this would be the greatest convenience!

ANGELA G. CLIFFORD.

Your idea is intensely interesting to me. Every public library should be, and can be if properly equipped and conducted, an institution that renders help in “inspiration, education, and recreation,” as you have so well expressed it—for the nation.

I wish our young people could be induced to read more biography, to know what others have accomplished with no more, and probably fewer, advantages than we possess. It is a great inspiration, and should also prove educational as well as entertaining.

Next to a good man or woman friend, comes a good book, for it reflects the thought of someone who has been over the road before us, and we have the benefit not only of the author’s thought, but of new thoughts which come to us as we read the printed page.

Yours sincerely,  
E. P. SELDEN.

Erie, Pa.

#### A Pledge

The members of the American Library association believe in the American Library association whole-heartedly. As individuals and as an organization they will exert every influence to promote the best interests of the organization.

#### Opening of Public Library of St. Thomas

The tenth of December should be a red letter day for St. Thomas in the Virgin Islands of the U. S. A. On the evening of this day the first library in the history of the place was formally opened to the public.

The Virgin Islands are part of the West Indies and were discovered by Columbus on his second trip. During all these years, they have been the center of high adventures and romance in which pirates, buccaneers and adventurers of all kinds found an ideal setting.

The ownership of the islands has been claimed and held at various times the last four hundred years by Spaniards, Dutch, English, French and Danes. The Danes have owned them for the last 200 years. During Lincoln’s administration, an effort was made by the United States to buy these Danish West Indies, but the sale was not consummated. Since then the purchase of the islands was considered from time to time. In 1917 they were finally bought by the United States for \$25,000,000. They are of value because of their strategic position. There are three main islands—St. Thomas, St. Croix and St. John, and a number of rocky islets.

On St. Thomas is Charlotte Amalia, a town of about ten thousand inhabitants, of which only a very small part are white. It is the capital of the Virgin Islands of the U. S. A. On St. Croix are two towns, Christiansted and Frederiksted, about fourteen miles apart.

Since the purchase by the United States of the Virgin Islands, efforts have been made to improve the sanitary and health conditions and to extend better educational opportunities. Those most interested felt that public libraries in the three towns would do much to stimulate the desire for self-improvement and offer, too, a center where the various classes of people could find a common ground free from partisan, sectarian or race divisions.

The government was not ready to undertake the establishment of public libraries; the individual towns were not

in position to do so. The American Library Association, which was appealed to, was interested, but could not finance the project, and so it was the Junior Red Cross which agreed to defray the expenses of books, supplies and services of an organizer to be selected by the American Library Association. Later the Red Cross agreed to defray the traveling and living expenses of an additional American Library Association representative, Miss Eleanor Gleason, who volunteered her services as an assistant.

Miss Gleason and I arrived at St. Thomas November 5 and began our work the next morning in the rooms secured by the St. Thomas library commission for the Public library of St. Thomas. Here we found the cases of books which we had ordered and which were purchased thru Despatch Office of the A. L. A. The books had been partially prepared for circulation by the staff of Despatch Office. There were also nearly three thousand books which had been secured as gifts from the A. L. A. War Service collection, the Navy department, the Newark public library and the School division of the New York state library.

I was able to enlist a number of volunteers from among representative women of St. Thomas, who gave material aid in the routine processes of fully preparing the books for circulation. These ladies were frankly told that we wanted their sympathetic interest in the library as much as their co-operation in helping to prepare the books. Some native helpers were also employed. As Miss Gleason and I had our living quarters in the library, we were literally at work from early morning until late at night. We had to contend with the many delays which one finds in the tropics.

Our chief limitations were those of transportation and communication. Being six days' ocean travel from the mainland has many disadvantages. One does feel very far away. However, we were more than busy and had little time to realize our insular isolation. There were carpenters, painters and electricians awaiting supervision, cleaning women and day la-

bors who had to be shown what and how to do things. As it was impossible to secure dressed lumber, all the planks for the shelving had to be sawed and planed by hand. In order to expedite matters in securing the shelving while working with the books, I undertook to paint each section as soon as the shelves were nailed together and then went back to classify the books until another section of shelving was ready. We used the A. L. A. packing boxes as shelves, as chairs, as dressing tables, wardrobes, and writing desks. Other Americans who had difficulty in securing furniture quite envied us our A. L. A. cases.

As the time for opening the library approached, I availed myself of every possible opportunity to tell the people of St. Thomas the good news. I met with the teachers and principals, talked before four different church organizations and to two large mass meetings of the labor unions. The two newspapers of St. Thomas were liberal in their notices. The chairman of the St. Thomas library commission, Mr Orville Kean, gave much time and effort to planning the exercises for the opening. Thru his efforts the large ball room of the Grand hotel across the street was secured, chairs for several hundred people were borrowed from the nearby Lutheran church, a platform was erected and a large flag draped in back of the platform. The governor and his staff, as well as the members of the Colonial Council, had been specially invited. The governor arranged to have the Naval band play. Friends and neighbors sent flowers, and by the evening of the great day, everything was in readiness. Things move slowly here, but by half past seven the big room was well filled and by eight o'clock, when the governor and his staff arrived, not only the room but the halls and alcoves opening from the hall were filled with interested people of all grades and classes.

After the exercises, several hundred people came over to the library for the inspection. They were directed by Miss Richardson, the newly appointed librarian, to go first to the children's room,

then to the main reading room, from there into the women's room, then into the librarian's office and out into the work room and so back to the hall.

All the young people and many of the older ones stopped in the children's room, charmed by the attractive books there. The books in beautiful editions were displayed on the central table. These books are for room use only and are provided with a label, "Not to be taken from the Library," but all the books in this room are new and fresh and most attractive in their red and green and yellow bindings, many with colored illustrations and all of them fascinating with the promise of interesting things between their covers.

In the main reading room, groups of men stopped in front of the shelves marked "Useful Arts," "History," "Travel," etc. Another group listened eagerly to an explanation of the chart which gives an outline of the Dewey decimal classification, according to which the books in the library are classified.

In the women's room, men, as well as women, were interested in the exhibit of West Indiana displayed on the central table. To the collection of books on the West Indies and especially on the Virgin Islands of the U. S. A. belonging to the library, were added those loaned by friends of the library. There were also pictures and government publications.

Except for the dusky faces, the opening was very much as any other public library opening might be in the States, but there was this difference that here is an experiment bigger with possibilities than that of any other library experiment tried out among English speaking people. Will it work? Will it bring about all that is hoped for it? One can gauge quite accurately what the probable result of a library in any American community can do to bring together on common ground many diverging interests. This also is an American community. The Stars and Stripes graced the assembly hall and will remain to greet every comer to the library; but this American community is only three years old. It

has to adapt itself to all the privileges and opportunities of American ideals.

It is an experiment, but if we have faith in the power of books to affect the souls of men, then we can have the assurance that a community which is American by choice, will make the best use possible of an institution which is in its democracy as American as it is possible for an organization to be, for here all differences of creed, of politics, of race or color can meet on common ground.

To look into the interested faces of that audience at the opening exercises and to later talk with these men and women, and then to see the boys and girls as they came to claim this wonderful gift of the Junior Red Cross to them was a thrilling experience. We have faith that the experiment will work and that the opening of this first public library in our Virgin Islands will be the means of uniting divergent interests and of providing that stimulus to good citizenship which libraries everywhere are fostering and which this library is peculiarly fitted to bring about.

ADELINE B. ZACHERT.

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#### Does Your Library Pay?

About 2,400,000 out of the 3,600,000 volumes loaned annually from the Cleveland public library are taken for recreation—for the sheer fun of reading. Three hours for the reading of each book would seem a moderate estimate and yet this estimate yields the tremendous total of 7,200,000 hours of book enjoyment.

Nor is allowance made for other readings of the book while it is out, nor for the many delightful hours spent by readers in the library itself. The pleasure of reading is certainly not inferior—many of us would say it was much superior—to that of the movies. But let us, in order to get at some total, place upon it a valuation at the rate of 10 cents per hour, a price for which no self-respecting movie nowadays will entertain you.

The public library then, in one of its least important functions, is providing

for Cleveland a service that on a most moderate basis must be valued at \$720,000. Nor does this computation make allowance for the valuable by-products in education, in human understanding, and in inspiration resulting from this pleasure reading.

The other one-third of the total number of books loaned has a far greater value to the community, but one less easily measured. First and foremost is the tremendous return to the community, in the education of its boys and girls. Most of the 180,000 pupils and 8000 teachers of Cleveland's schools, public, parochial and private, use the library in some way in their school work.

The increased skill and ability of the library-using clerk and mechanic, salesman and executive, benefits the entire community. The improved product, the wider market, and the more economical operation resulting from the use of the library's technical and research material has a dollars-and-cents value to the business man and to the city with whose prosperity his own is bound up.

The greater effectiveness of the artist, the architect and the designer, make Cleveland and Cleveland homes more beautiful places in which to live. The fuller understanding of today's complex problems on the part of the social worker will result in better solutions of much that is now vexing us, and the more vital and inspiring message of the teacher will make us all worthier citizens.

For this immeasurably valuable service Cleveland now pays \$690,000 a year, or seven cents a month per person. Surely, in view of the great return, this small investment could profitably be increased! —*The Open Shelf.*

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The best of cities rests solidly upon the enduring foundation of American liberty under law. By serving my city, I serve my country. Every day I will help, not hinder; work, not shirk.

"Helping, not hindering; working, not shirking," is in complete harmony with this code of ethics.

### Factory Service

I am sure all who have tried "Publicity" at the factories have found it paid. Their location being often so far from a library or branch, the employee, unless possessed with a natural taste for reading, needs persuasion to go many blocks for a book at the end of a day's work.

We have not been able to place books in the factories here for circulation, but we have tried various other methods, and with good results. So much so, that a department head recently commented on the men and women employes he had recognized here in one evening. We are glad he did.

Our "worth while" discarded books, juvenile and adult, are sent to one of the factories, accompanied with a "Help Yourself" placard all fixed with cord attached ready to be hung over the box, and the suggestion printed underneath to call at the library for other books on any subject. We had some difficulty in getting permission to send the first box, and in one factory we have never yet made a dent, tho we shall sometime. There is no telling what queer twist is in that employer's mind. The boxes are usually emptied the first day.

Lately we typed lists, inserting the pages in multiple binders. On the red outside cover we pasted white letters

### THE LIBRARY IS YOURS

WHY  
NOT USE IT

?

and below in small letters, Greenville Free public library. We used the usual headings for lists: Books that cheer—A smile a minute; Practical books—Learn more, earn more; Business books; Detective stories; Western stories; Travel without expense, placing on the first page the list including books on drafting, machine shop practice, shop sketching, welding and cutting, electricity, etc. The lists thus bound were punched, with cord attached, and hung on the bulletin board

or some prominent place in each factory. Our statistics showed us that some good was accomplished.

Librarians are born missionaries. Perhaps we do not attain the zeal of the cannibal-feeding variety, still we insist we are all more or less missionarily inclined.

Those who, for various reasons, must remain associated with the small library, and who miss the thrill of pride which justly comes to those connected with our splendid institutions, must remember the "compensations."

The intimate experiences which come to the "small librarian," at least give the thrill of quick returns to that aforesaid missionary tendency; and whatever welfare work is undertaken, those participating get to see the start and are certain to be in on the finish!

E. A. W.

#### The Growth of Western Libraries

The east once plumed itself on its possession of nearly all the nation's art treasures, but it has long since been taught humility by the rise of fine art museums in the middle and far west. Its inclination to boast of special library advantages is certain also to receive a check. In number of books the library of the University of Chicago challenges comparison with any but four collections this side the Alleghanies. Beyond the Mississippi, one public library, that of St. Louis, and one university library, that of California, have passed the half-million mark. In history, various western collections are already famous. The Mercantile library in St. Louis is unapproached for the history of Louisiana and the states formed from it. The invaluable H. H. Bancroft collection has gone to the University of California. The universities of California and Texas have shown zeal in collecting material on southwestern history in Spain, Mexico and this country. A wide distribution of great book collections is earnestly to be desired.—*Brockton Times, Brockton, Mass.*

#### Seven Year Survey of the Rochester Public Library

"Seven years Jacob served for Rachel, and then he got Leah." This is the first sentence in the Seven Year survey issued by the Public library, Rochester, N. Y. The allusion suggests the long period of waiting for a consummation devoutly to be wished; then temporary disappointment that the supreme object has not been achieved, but satisfaction over the fact that so much has been accomplished.

The Rochester library is the youngest in the United States for a city of its size (295,850 population). Unfortunately the library is not only young but very inadequate. There are as yet no central library and no permanent buildings for branches and only half as many branches as are needed.

But considering the funds at its disposal, the library management seems pretty well satisfied with itself. This feeling is well supported by the record of facts. At the end of the seven years there were in operation 7 branches, 8 sub-branches, 102 deposit stations, 545 class room libraries and 11 playground collections. From these various centers the circulation of books for the last year was 1,085,182 volumes. Of these 44% were books for children.

The expenditures for the last year were \$97,234.69. For the seven years they were \$499,376.37. Deducting the assets on hand as shown by the inventory, makes the net cost of operation \$348,765.75 for the circulation of 5,059,-487 volumes, or \$7.60 for each 100 volumes circulated.

The Survey states that the average cost for the libraries of New York state is \$14.87 per 100 volumes circulated and \$13.20 in 33 of the largest public libraries of the United States. This difference in the cost of library service is so striking as to call for comment. It would seem that either the average of \$14.87 for the state is too large or the average of \$7.60 for Rochester is too small. The published data are insufficient for arriving at a decision. Only the compilers of these figures can reconcile the variations

in their averages. If, however, one large city can circulate books at practically half of what it costs in other large cities, we should like to know how it is done.

The Survey gives a comprehensive view of the rapid growth and development of the library system inadequate though it is. The booklet is splendidly illustrated and beautifully printed.

#### Certification of Libraries in Iowa

Now that the question of certification is active, it may be interesting to recall that the Iowa Library Association in October, 1919, appointed a board, consisting of the chairman and secretary of the Iowa Library Commission, these being respectively, ex-officio chairman and secretary of the board of certification. The remaining three members, one to be a trustee, one a librarian and the third a library assistant, are elected by the Iowa Library Association for terms of three years each. Four grades of certificates are issued: Grade A, Life certificates; Grade B, Five-year certificates; Grade C, Three-year certificate; Grade D, One-year certificate. Library training and approved library experience are required for each grade of certificate. The plan "is not intended to be retroactive, nor to affect librarians now in service unless they wish to apply for certificates. It is simply placing a standard upon librarianship in the state of Iowa for the use of those who shall enter the work after the adoption of this plan by the Iowa Library Association."

One effect of the age of machinery is to standardize our lives and reduce them to a common mold, and no great man was ever built of an age that turned to standardization.

The average citizen in the time of Pericles had a keener interest in public affairs and what is more, a finer appreciation of all the higher things of life than the average citizen of any community in the twentieth century.

#### 'Death of Dr E. J. Nolan

Edward J. Nolan, M.D., for more than a half-century librarian of the Philadelphia Academy of Science, died at his home in that city, January 7. He was a charter member of the A. L. A. and always devoted to its interests. He was also a member of a number of learned societies.

Until he became ill, he was always full of energy, alert, with a healthful curiosity concerning the world around him. He admitted but few into his inner circle of friends, but was always very courteous, even in his sometime explosions of impatience with sham, and most kind to those whose likes and dislikes ran parallel with his own. He was very susceptible to natural beauty and he had much of the mystical spirit of his race. He was a devoted Catholic and for a man of the world, was singularly devout. He had a pungent wit that was both feared and liked by his associates. He was highly regarded by his institution and represented it always with dignity.

He was caught in the maelstrom of travel in Europe in 1914 and was soon after stricken. He was wearisomely ill for the last three years of his life and welcomed the release by death. Dr. Nolan was never married but made his home with his only sister, Mrs E. N. Gilbert to whom he was greatly attached.

One point in librarianship on which New Zealand or part of it at least, scores, is in the plan of superannuation. That is fine for old people but I have the opinion that superannuation schemes are not unmixed blessings for young people. It has a tendency to stifle enterprise unless it is a national scheme. A timid person would hesitate before he gave up a position in a concern that offered superannuation, especially if he was in on the cheap rate of youth. Of course, each year older increases his entrance payment.

H. B.

### Midwinter Meeting, Chicago

The mid-winter meeting of the A. L. A. council was held in Chicago, December 27-28, with more than 100 persons present at one of its sessions.

The meetings were open to the public and many who are not members of the council were present.

There was a called meeting, also, of normal school librarians under the direction of Miss Mary J. Booth of Charleston, Illinois, to which all school librarians were invited. Quite a number of persons interested in questions relating to such libraries were present.

There was also, a meeting of college and university librarians who discussed problems of the day's thought in their work. The college librarians held their meetings apart from the university men. Their discussions were scheduled on the following topics: How to encourage students to own books; How to induce the right kind of student to take up library work; What have college libraries done in collecting college material, and how is it cared for; Newspapers in college libraries; Care of reserved books and prevention of unauthorized borrowing; Should a college library purchase fiction? Inventory—how often? L. C. classification for a small library.

The League of library commissions held two sessions discussing the following questions: Entrance requirements for Summer schools; Library buildings in small towns; Proposed library legislation in the various states; Minimum of population warranting tax support.

There were no evening sessions tho groups having common interests met and talked over their problems. The weather was somewhat cold but on the whole was not unpleasant. The hotel was crowded by the holiday season and the accommodations left much to be desired in meeting places and comfort.

The majority of the groups in the halls and corridors of the meeting

places were those in the membership of recent years; tho what might be termed the "middle ages" were in evidence but "the old timers" were few in number. Two of these latter showed some evidence of *lapsus memoriae*.

Locality showed, also, a new alignment.

New England sent Mr Keogh of Yale, Mr Stetson of New Haven, Miss Ellery of Wellesley, Mr Redstone, State librarian of Massachusetts, and Mr Sanborn of Bridgeport. The Middle Atlantic region sent Mr Meyer, Library of Congress, Washington, Mr Hill of Brooklyn, Mr Gerould of Princeton, Miss McDonald of Pennsylvania, Mr Yust of Rochester, N. Y., and Dr C. C. Williamson and Mr H. W. Wilson of New York City. Ohio sent a goodly number and, indeed, the bulk of the attendance was from the Middle states not far from the vicinity of Chicago, tho Nebraska had several delegates.

It was the first appearance of Miss Tyler as president of an A. L. A. general meeting and the dignity and precision of her chairmanship, the dispatch and propriety of her ruling won the admiration of her audience.

Tuesday afternoon, December 28, saw a joint meeting of the A. L. A. council and the League of library conditions with Miss Tyler in the chair. The topic for discussion was

#### Sources and responsibilities for public library revenues

which was discussed first by Mr S. H. Ranck of Grand Rapids, Mich.

He opened with a statement of the world-wide search on the part of government authorities for new sources of revenue on account of the war, and that libraries in facing the problem of getting revenue must recognize the changed world condition.

He then analyzed the increase in taxation for city, county, state and national purposes in 1914 and 1920, in terms of per capita taxation, showing that the per capita taxation for city, county, and state purposes had not quite doubled in these

six years, while the per capita taxation for national purposes had increased from less than \$7 per capita to over \$54 per capita, making a total per capita tax burden in the country today of \$94, as compared with \$27 in 1914. In terms of average wages for Michigan, the average head of a family in 1920 contributed in city, county, state and national taxes one day's work out of three for every day he worked, as compared with about one day in six in 1914.

In analyzing the expenditures of the national government for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1920, it was shown that 93 per cent, or over \$50 per capita, went for war purposes, past, present, and future, and that 7 per cent, or about \$4 per capita, went for all other purposes of the national government. This \$50 for war purposes last year was more than the total per capita taxation for city, county, state, and all other national purposes, exclusive of war, plus the total per capita taxation for national purposes in 1914. Libraries, on the other hand, got last year about 17 cents per capita for their support in the United States.

Attention was directed to the situation which was created by this greatly increased taxation which caused a tendency in many places to reduce appropriations or revenues for library and educational purposes. On the other hand, expenses for such purposes were an extremely small part of the total, and furthermore they were in reality productive taxes, for they increased the productive power, or the ability of the people to pay, inasmuch as people with education and knowledge were worth more to the community and to the state as producers, than those without.

Mr Ranck stated that the greatest source of revenue for libraries and education was in the reduction of taxation for war purposes, and therefore that the question of a world organization which would reduce and eliminate so far as possible, war expenditures, was a matter of vital importance to everyone interested in the development of libraries and education.

Attention was also called to the high

cost of idleness at the present time, thru the stopping of production owing to the slump in industry, inasmuch as this stoppage of production reduced, or entirely wiped out the ability to pay taxes, especially income taxes, and furthermore that all taxes in the long run are paid out of production.

Local taxation has been the mainstay of public libraries in the past, and would likely continue so in the future, and therefore it is of the utmost importance that libraries should develop their efficiency in order to get the greatest amount of local support. The revenues from private sources for libraries had never been fully developed according to Mr Ranck, and there were great opportunities in this field in the way of securing funds, the income to be used for specified purposes, to this extent relieving the burden of taxation, or still better, permitting the library to extend its usefulness to a much greater extent than local taxation afforded.

Considerable attention was paid to the importance of state grants for libraries in order to equalize the opportunities of public libraries in different parts of the state, and that all taxation for educational purposes should be based on the number of people to be served rather than on the amount of property in a community. Property always tends to centralize in and around cities, and there is a lack of uniformity in the amount of property available for taxation purposes in different communities, as compared with the number of people in them. State grants equalize this inequality to a certain extent, and furthermore they made possible a certain amount of state supervision which is highly desirable. The wisdom of the policy of most of the states with reference to the schools in this particular was dwelt upon.

Mr Ranck believes that the unit of library service and income should be the number of people to be served rather than the amount of property assessed for taxable purposes in any community, and therefore, education being a matter of state rather than of local concern, the ultimate responsibility for public library

revenues must rest upon the state as a whole. It was the business of librarians to endeavor to secure the proper legislation in this respect. The recent law of the Province of Ontario making the number of people to be served the basis for library income was commented on favorably. This law permits the library authorities of each community to claim a minimum of 50 cents per capita on the population for the library budget, which may be increased by the local legislative or tax levying body.

Judge O. L. Wildermuth, president of the board of trustees of the Public library, Gary, Indiana, followed with an interesting talk on the laws of the several states, citing a number of cases which showed that the real power for creating library funds lies in the will of the people. The library is really an expression of the desires of a community for education and if they are sufficiently interested, the law can be made to fit their desires.

Judge Wildermuth, in referring to the fact that an appointive board had not the power to levy the tax, referred to a case before the Supreme court of Indiana in which that court upheld the action as constitutional on the ground that if anybody was dissatisfied with having the appointive board levy a tax, he could remonstrate and if a sufficient number had remonstrated, they would have the opportunity to have been heard, but having failed to remonstrate, they must be held to have consented.

He referred to a situation in Illinois where the case was very similar, where the people did not remonstrate for 30 years and the court held that having slept on their rights for so long, it was too late now to make an objection.

He referred to the haphazard variety of ways in which library taxes are levied. He insisted that library support ought to be guaranteed by the action of the library's friends rather than to be left to the uncertain action of others who are not very much interested in the public library.

In the discussion that followed, Dr Bostwick of St. Louis said that the library tax is voted directly by the people of that city and the city government has nothing to do with it. The tax can be withheld or the levy changed only by a similar vote at the polls. The tax is based on assessed valuation which provides a continuous increase in the amount of money received.

Dr Bostwick referred to the method of the Board of Apportionment in New York and other places where the board has to go every year and ask for money which the Board of Apportionment gives, if it chooses, and if not, the library gets cut.

One objection found with the St. Louis plan was that there is no means by which the library income can be increased to meet the increased expenses, such as cost of salaries and books. In order to get a modification of the law, it is necessary to get signatures to a petition to have it put upon the ballot to be voted upon.

Miss Eastman of Cleveland said she could state a predicament, but had no solution to offer as yet. The Library Board in Cleveland had been always very conservative in its requests and had been usually recognized with its apportionment. The library had always had the proud distinction that it was the only tax-supported institution that had always lived within its income. The vote of the people this year gave both the city and schools a large increase in appropriation. The library was surprised when the budget commission decided that the Public library was a part of the educational system of the city and that, therefore, the School Board was to pay out of its income for the support of the library.

The schools objected and a friendly suit resulted. The court upheld the action of the Budget commission. The schools will take the matter to the higher courts and legislature. In the meantime, the library is waiting to see what the income for the year is to be. No solution as yet appears.

Judge Wildermuth held that the final power to levy the tax in the Cleveland situation rested with the Budget commission and that the only change that was possible could come thru the legislature.

Reference was made to the Canada law which provides for a minimum library tax of 50c and a maximum of 75c per capita. The point was made that a number of libraries had a per capita tax above the Canada law, but in many instances where the population shifts and where the population is diminishing, there would be an unsettled condition. It was brought out that the tax assessed on valuation where there was a minimum and not a maximum named, would take care of the library.

Miss Rose of Des Moines reported that after careful study, they had found the best way was to see that every member of the city council was well instructed in library matters. At a recent joint session of the Library Board and City Council, the library received the maximum that was asked for.

Mr Ranck stated that the penal fines in Michigan were given to the library. The penal fines for violation of liquor laws at first fell off but they have commenced again to increase because the judges are fining more heavily.

Mr Ranck was of the opinion from his own experience that elected trustees were preferable to those received by appointment. They had had a higher type of men and the men were more prompt in attending meetings. No meeting for 17 years had been omitted for the want of a quorum.

Mr Dudgeon of Milwaukee raised the question as to whether it would be a wise thing for library boards to have the power of levying taxes because such a thing did not tend toward a unified government. He suggested that it would be for the best interests of the library for it to be under the necessity of demonstrating its effective work to a taxing body or some other board.

Mr Bostwick said that the library has not got such a hold on the public as the school system has. He thought the tradition of the community ought to be that the library has got to have the best men in the community on the board.

Mr Ranck again called attention to the fact that the slump in industries and the tendency to cut expenses everywhere, often at the sacrifice of some institution, will have a very decided effect on the library in the next two or three years.

Mr Yust, chairman of the American Library Association committee on legislation, said that he had not gathered that there was any legal way to assure a given library a levied appropriation necessary for it to do satisfactory work. He thought it a good plan to urge a law whereby the power that controls the library can fix the library tax within limits set by the law. In New York state, there is a minimum but not a maximum.

In the manual on legislation which is about to be issued, the points will be made, not only for the best interests of the library, but for the best interests of the municipalities. If librarians ask for a law that gives undue advantage to the libraries and get it, this law will fall back on the libraries in due course of time. The librarians ought to assist in the study which is being made for uniform legislation.

Mr Hill of Brooklyn said that he thought the satisfactory plan is to have a state law which permits a community, by vote of the people, to have a mandatory tax applied on the percentage basis with a high minimum and no maximum. In New York City, the governing boards feel that the libraries of the city are using their funds to good advantage and it is seldom that the libraries are cut down so that they feel it perceptibly.

Miss Robinson of Iowa reported that in an effort to report how many libraries were receiving the maximum, she had sent out the question, "Are you receiving the maximum?" and that

out of 51 replies, 18 were receiving the maximum and these were all of the smaller libraries of the state but two. In answer to the question, "Did you receive what you asked for?" 24 replied that they had received what they asked for. Less than the maximum was what they had asked for. Only nine replied that they had not received what they had asked for. She thought this showed it was the fault of the library boards for not asking for a larger amount if they need it.

#### A. L. A. Publications

At an open meeting of the A. L. A. Publishing Board on Wednesday morning, the discussion was devoted to methods of employment and reducing the cost of *The Booklist*. The suggestions included: Classified annual summary; Elimination of advanced list; Turning over to commercial publisher; Reducing number of titles; Using cheaper paper; and Methods of increasing circulation.

At the close of the session, the regular business was transacted. Dr Bostwick and Mr Milam were re-elected chairman and secretary, respectively. The following votes were taken: that the secretary offer new and "additional" subscriptions at a special rate of \$1.50 for a limited time; that the secretary and editor be instructed to investigate and adopt all reasonable methods of reducing the cost; that the editor of *The Booklist* employ assistants at once to enable *The Booklist* staff to compile the A. L. A. catalog for 1912-20 at a cost not to exceed \$1,500; that a new edition of Chapter 4 of the *A. L. A. Manual* be printed; that a contract be made with Miss M. E. Hazeltine for her book on anniversaries and holidays; that the annotated list of plays for children by Alice I. Hazeltine be published in book form; that a list of *Booklist* books for 1920 be compiled and printed; that the secretary investigate and report on publishing a book on "Book selection"; that a reasonable number of Catalog Rules for use in America be reprinted; that the secretary have printed for the British library association whatever quantity may be desired, at no expense to the Publishing Board; that the

secretary be authorized to have a county library pamphlet compiled for immediate publication; that the pamphlet on Hagerstown county library be reprinted with supplementary material; that Miss Mudge be authorized to prepare a new edition of Kroeger's Guide to reference books; that a leaflet by Christopher Morley on "Recruiting for librarianship" be issued; that "Viewpoints in biography" (Tappert) be issued at once; that any further funds received by the treasurer on account of the Enlarged Program campaign be deposited in the "Books for everybody fund."

A letter from Miss Cornelia Marvin suggested the publication of something like the Pacific Northwest library association's *Cumulative Bulletin on Subscription Books*. This was referred to the person who undertakes the writing of a book on Book selection.

The second meeting of the council was an open one and the largest audience of the week was present.

#### Professional organizations

The first address was presented by H. N. Sanborn of the Public library, Bridgeport, Conn., on "The Field and function of a national professional organization."

Mr Sanborn took the position that the American Library Association was and rightly ought to be a professional organization instead of a welfare organization. He defined a professional organization as an association of individuals following the same profession, admitting to membership only those who are members of the particular profession, with or without carefully examining the applications of all applicants for membership. A welfare organization is an association of interested individuals organized to render some direct service to humanity as a whole or to some particular class of society. Its members are largely laymen but its work is carried on by paid professionals. A welfare organization is primarily a serving organization.

Mr Sanborn presented and commented on the main points of the constitutions and by-laws of the American Bar Association, the American Medical As-

sociation, the American Institute of Architects and the National Education Association. These demonstrated that their purposes are very definitely the improvement and advancement of the professions which their members follow. This examination showed that the object of none of these is to render direct professional service to the public as a whole or to any special group of the public, but to the profession itself. While the constitutions might be interpreted to allow direct service, they are not maintaining such service but apparently hold that if the intelligence and fitness of their various groups are increased by professional study, comparison and discussion, that the result for the general public is of a better quality and a higher degree. Even under the stress of war, they did not attempt direct public service. The American Library Association was the only exception.

All of these hold at least one annual convention for the interchange of ideas, for reports on the work of the association and committees and for the transaction of necessary business. Some associations, for the purpose of still further informing the members of their professions, issue professional publications, either in book or pamphlet form.

An important function in some instances is the effort to standardize professional service and the agencies for professional training. A few of these associations have made the matter of professional fees and compensation a part of their active program. The American Institute of Architects designates fees; the National Education Association advocates for better salaries and pension systems. The promotion of legislation favorable to the profession or the object for which the profession works is also considered a function. Some of the associations attempt to educate the general public as to the value of the services the profession can render.

The American Library Association, before the war, seems not to have contemplated direct library service and the

charter makes no provision for such work. At the meeting in St. Louis in 1917, the American Library Association took upon itself a program of direct service and it was the only one of the associations which did so. Regardless of the fact that the association was not intended for welfare work, librarians were quick to observe that books are physical objects which may be distributed like food, clothing and cigarettes.

Mr Bishop pointed out at Asbury Park, in answer to the demand of that group who thought the association should do welfare work, that the American Library Association was not organized for that sort of efficient service and that the constitution needed revision in order to carry out any such program. The question, why not raise more money and "carry on" came to the front and the committee on an enlarged program was appointed. The adoption of that program meant the permanent changing of the association from a professional organization to a welfare organization.

The members of a professional association are personally interested in the welfare and progress of the profession as a profession. The members assume to form and express expert opinion on professional service and on the policies and management of the association. The members in a welfare organization have joined that association either because they believe that the public service of the organization deserves support or that they personally will benefit by belonging to the association. Membership in the Red Cross means the former; membership in the Y. M. C. A. may mean one or both. The members are not professionals or experts in social service. Except in a general way, they are not concerned in the management or policies of the associations.

In relation to the funds of the organization, the chief object of the association is professional betterment. It looks to the profession for final support. Individual benefactors who be-

lieve in the value of the profession, as Mr Carnegie and Mrs Russel Sage, may give financial support, but the general public will add its interest because of tangible direct service and only a welfare organization can appeal to the general public for funds.

The American Library Association, at its meeting in 1919, voted to raise \$2,000,000 and it was felt in order to spend this money effectively, the power to make decisions must be in the hands of a few and there could not be delay for a referendum of the members at large. An attempt was made to revise the constitution so as to allow this and here confusion began. It was voted to become a welfare organization, but there was an unwillingness to give up the constitutional *modus operandi* of a professional association. The majority was not willing to intrust to a small board both the forming and execution of association policies. A voice in the management and policy-making of affairs was demanded.

A constitution is a necessary part of any organization. The necessary provision for operating the business of an association is: 1) active members with some voice in the management. There may be also associate and honorary members. 2) officers, 3) an executive body, 4) a policy or legislative body, 5) necessary committees, 6) financial provision.

An association that determines its policies and conducts its business thru the vote of its members, acts slowly. It must, therefore, provide for voting by mail or make the quorum so small that a proposal may be carried by a small minority. Last year in the A. L. A., less than 100 members out of a possible 4000 voted for Dr Putnam's resolution to inaugurate a campaign for \$2,000,000. Later in the year, 1,200 members voted by mail to delay the campaign. A vote by mail is liable to represent misunderstanding. Action by a small minority gives opportunity for a few enthusiasts to commit the association to a policy which the majority may not approve.

A remedy for this is a representative form of government where individuals

express their opinions thru delegates. Many professional organizations have a more or less elaborate form of representative government upon the principle of federation. This principle may vary. All of them have strict qualifications for membership which the A. L. A. does not.

In determining a basis of representation, three things are to be considered, locality, number of members in the unit and the special divisions of professional service. Public libraries so far outnumber other libraries and head librarians being more prominent in the profession than assistants, some provision should be made for those engaged in some special branch of library work to have a voice and safeguard the body from becoming one with one-sided interests.

Geographical quorums should obtain rather than actual numbers. The larger state associations would probably have the largest number of delegates and a majority of a council quorum voting might be from a few states all in one part of the country. The complete management of the association is in their hands for approval. Smaller bodies should exist for the carrying out of the policies of the assembly.

The election of officers could advantageously be left to the vote of the entire membership. The members could vote by mail and such a provision would give an additional sense of having a voice in affairs and with the increased probability under this arrangement, of more than one ticket, there would possibly be an end of a condition where the president is elected by 78 votes out of a possible 3,000 or more.

A professional association can not make an appeal to the general public for funds. Dues and assessments care for current association conferences and administration as well as for committee investigations. Many professional organizations provide that 10 per cent of the gross annual income shall be added to an endowment and that the interest on the endowment shall be spent for investigation.

The writer proposed that instead of using the *Library Journal* and PUBLIC

LIBRARIES for the promulgation of the association's work, that the A. L. A. publish its own professional periodical. The paper proposed also that the employment department should be commercialized by asking that librarians pay a reasonable per cent of their salaries for a position found for them and that the library receiving an assistant be willing to pay for this service.

The paper closed with a suggested revision of the constitution.

Mr H. H. B. Meyer, in discussing the paper, said that from his experience in the past year and the wide-spread conversation that it had given him with members, he was sure that the consensus of opinion was for a professional and not a welfare organization. A revision of the constitution is perhaps needed and certainly the outline presented will offer subject for thought. The subject of regional associations is an important one and might be looked to to really strengthen the association and make it more essentially democratic. In any case, the regional feature should be investigated and emphasized.

Miss Ahern said that she agreed with Mr Meyer's idea of regional meetings and while it might seem a reversal of her former opinion, in view of a widespread desire for such meetings, it might be inapt to oppose such action. The original feeling was that the A. L. A., as it is now organized, could not be a strong, active body, sending out its influence to all parts of the country and at the same time have its membership divided into regional associations unless there was some larger, stronger channel of communication than the present constitution affords. At any rate, the association is in a greater state of coalescence today than it was a year ago and it is the duty of every one in it to work to support an idea that will give the best library organization possible.

Mr Windsor of Urbana approved heartily of what Mr Meyer had set forth. The president called for discussion and Mr Hamilton of Indiana said that the Indiana library association was interested in the same subject and had already

discussed ways and means of becoming a part of a national organization.

Miss Ahern said that the plan might have a little different color in the large library centers such as Greater New York or Chicago and asked that Mr Hill speak on the subject.

At the invitation of the president, Mr Hill said that for 25 years he had been attending A. L. A. meetings and committee meetings at which the revision of the constitution had been discussed and hadn't entered into the discussion of it and he didn't propose to begin now.

A number spoke in favor of the regional meetings, Miss Robinson, Mrs Earle, Miss MacDonald of Pa., Dr Bostwick and others. Those who questioned the idea were Mr Wheeler and Mr Rush. Mr Ranck questioned the advisability of the biennial meetings rather than the annual meetings.

The general sentiment was that while a regional organization might be a good thing, the problem of its non-interference with either the state or national meetings ought to be safeguarded.

Mr Hill refused again to discuss the plan, preferring to treat the matter cautiously.

Mr Roden of Chicago seemed to take an extreme view that there was an intention, as he expressed it, "of sewing ourselves up so that we can never employ any of the instruments that come into our hands for what is not welfare work, but the extension of the gospel we are trying to preach over the country in the places where it isn't the function of anyone else to preach that gospel." He thought the association, while it is theoretically a professional one, had departed for the past generation from the consideration of professional discussions and it was left to small sections of catalogers and the other groups to maintain the professional spirit. He thought that the A. L. A. meetings had discussed large generalities. He asked that the A. L. A. get back to a revision of the kind of subjects discussed in meetings rather than a revision of the constitution that will forever debar the association from being anything else.

#### Plans for regional meetings

There was sent in writing by Mr Chalmers Hadley of Denver "some preliminary suggestions for a consideration of ways and means of bringing the American Library Association and library workers into closer relations and for promoting the welfare of libraries in America, particularly thru promoting the welfare of library employees."

The suggestions embodied first, a change in the constitution as to membership of the council. Instead of the present membership, Mr Hadley proposed that the council should consist of the executive board, all ex-presidents of the A. L. A., all presidents of affiliated societies members of the A. L. A., and representatives from other library associations elected at the annual meeting of such associations on the basis of membership.

Another suggestion provided for chapters of the A. L. A. by state and local groups of the A. L. A. members and made provision for such.

Another suggestion was that the A. L. A., thru and with the co-operation of the local associations, endeavor to stabilize and secure fair salaries for employees in the various grades of library service, as well as proper hours of work, vacation and sick leave time.

Another suggestion was that the A. L. A. should give personal assistance when requested to the state and local chapters when questions concerning the general welfare of library employees are being considered.

In discussing Mr Hadley's recommendation, Dr Bostwick thought the plan too elaborate and asked for a simpler plan. He did not favor state chapters of the A. L. A. as they would conflict with the state associations which he thought were necessary, but where there was a conflict between a chapter and a library club, the two should coalesce. These local clubs ought to be encouraged, having back of them the A. L. A. without the intermediary of state chapters.

Mr C. W. Andrews thought he saw in Mr Hadley's suggestion a restriction of the interests of the A. L. A. to merely

the affairs of public libraries. A brisk bit of discussion arose over Mr Andrew's statement that he thought state, college, university, reference and special librarians, with catalogers and special workers, have no interest in state associations; that the proposed organization would finally lead to nothing but employees in the council and the association should be called the American Library Employees' Association instead of the American Library Association.

The president led Dr Andrews farther afield until he finally made the statement that in the two associations which he knew, Massachusetts and Illinois, only public library interests were considered, that university librarians, reference librarians and others had no part in them. Miss Ahern pointed out that in the Illinois library association, at least, that university librarians, catalogers, desk attendants, children's librarians and trustees were good strong working members. To support his point, he called for a census of the present executive board of the A. L. A. and the chairman pointed out that the present board only had two librarians of public libraries. Mr Andrews answered that he stood corrected.

The question of dues and membership in the A. L. A. was discussed and it was pointed out that sometimes a membership in three library organizations was an expensive proposition. The question of increased membership dues and life membership dues seemed to meet with favor. This discussion was most interesting.

#### Publishing Board matters

The next general discussion related to the resolution that was passed at Colorado Springs that a committee should be appointed from the council to report on the Publishing Board, as to whether it was constitutional or advisable for the Executive Board to appoint a commercial publisher to take charge of the publishing work of the association. Dr Bostwick who was chairman of the committee, said that the committee had discussed the question and offered a recommendation to the council that the matter be referred

to the Publishing Board for such disposition as, in its judgment, seemed proper.

Miss Ahern queried as to whether that was the proper disposition of the question, when a committee from the council was appointed to investigate matters relating to the Publishing Board, to have the matter referred back to the Publishing Board to take care of. Dr Bostwick objected to the use of the word "investigate."

In reply to this, the question was asked how the committee could make a recommendation without finding out about cost, service, time, place, etc.

After some discussion, the report of the committee was adopted, 19 to 1.

#### Enlarged Program account

The president asked to have a summary of the present finances given, not as an official report, but as information for members of the A. L. A., as there is no disposition not to give out information as generously as might be. The association has been dealing with a series of funds more or less involved but a report can now be made on the outstanding facts.

Mr Tweedell presented the summary as follows:

There was \$202,340 borrowed from the "unexpended war funds" made up from contributions in the first and second War Library Service campaigns. This was a debt owed the A. L. A. by the Enlarged Program committee. To balance this account, there was set aside from the first war fund, 137,265.69. This was made up from the balance of \$50,000 of the first war fund that had not been spent at all and from \$79,000, the refunded cost of the second campaign which had been paid out of the first campaign funds, making a total payment of \$137,265.69. This was transferred to the credit of the Enlarged Program. When the Enlarged Program campaign was closed, there remained from the loan of \$202,340, the sum of \$50,000 unexpended, which was returned to the treasury of the A. L. A.

In accordance with the resolutions passed at Colorado Springs, the balance

of the loan, \$15,074.31, was paid from the funds, \$72,536.76, collected in the Enlarged Program campaign. The loan from the A. L. A., \$202,340, was in bank to the credit of the Director of the campaign. Interest to the amount of \$1,862.74 accrued, giving to the credit of the Enlarged Campaign fund \$204,202.74.

The expense of the campaign was as follows:

National organization .....	\$36,229.98
National publicity .....	61,423.29
National office .....	10,890.04
Regional directors .....	6,924.08
State directors and Greater New York committee .....	37,111.58

\$152,578.97

Refunded to War Service funds..	50,000.00
Balance on hand .....	1,623.77

Receipts of "Books for Everybody Fund":

Cash contributions .....	\$51,229.99
Unpaid pledges to Dec. 24, 1920, inclusive .....	21,306.69
Donated to the general funds....	46,621.33
Donated for special funds (blind, etc.) .....	25,915.35

In answer to a question by Mr Andrews as to how the activities from the War Service fund had carried on, Mr Milam said the answer to that changed every 24 hours. The hospital service will continue for some time. The Paris operations will be carried on until July 1. The Coblenz work has already been transferred to the army. The merchant marine service has been closed. The hospital work causes the most anxiety. It has a splendid momentum. The men in the hospitals make so much of it that it would be a calamity to have it stopped, but the Public Health Service, who had expected to take over the work, has failed at the last minute.

The question in relation to the Paris library brought the statement that it was expected that the corporation would be on its feet by July 1, 1921, and that engagements to that point had been made which will have to be met by A. L. A.

Miss Ahern expressed an appreciation of certain forms of work which the library in Paris could do that would be valuable, aside from helping the English speaking people who might use it, and in having on the continent an object lesson

as to what is meant by American library service. Mr Carlton's report of present work seems to carry out that idea admirably but his suggestions for the future seemed to carry far beyond what any one had in mind in the beginning or, indeed, in all frankness, would be proper for American librarians or even American scholars to adopt. His recommendation was that there be made out of this library in Paris, a center of research for advanced investigators, a monumental research collection on Anglo Saxon civilization.... Most of the material used in the study of the development of Anglo-Saxon civilization originated in Europe. Why should Americans create such a institution in Paris when across the channel on one side and across the mountains on the other, are the real sources of study of the Anglo-Saxon civilization?

Some discussion as to the plan of operation and work of the Paris library brought out the main facts which have appeared in PUBLIC LIBRARIES before. (See P. L. 26:33.)

The president referred to the indefinite ideas which prevail in relation to the duties of association committees and asked for the approval of the council to appoint a committee on committees. On motion, this was granted.

The meeting closed with expressions of pleasure and satisfaction with the proceedings.

#### A. L. A. Executive Board Cleveland meeting, December 8

This meeting was largely devoted to closing up the campaign for money.

It was voted unanimously that the matter of the Enlarged Program, so far as the A. L. A. is concerned, be considered as closed, December 24. The board approved the recommendation of the finance committee that the A. L. A. officers and employees be bonded. It was voted that the James J. Whitney fund be invested to its full amount in Liberty bonds and that the interest coupons be deposited in the savings account.

#### Chicago, December 28

Regular matters of business were taken care of at the meeting on Decem-

ber 28. In answer to an inquiry from the Committee on federal and state relations as to whether they should approve the Smith-Towner bill in its present form, it was decided that the association had endorsed the idea of a department of education and that the committee is at liberty to decide on what action it shall take in regard to special features of the bill. The suggestion of Congressional appropriation for the navy and army libraries was referred to this committee, as was also the question of support of the reclassification bill.

The financial report on the general funds for 1920 contained, among other things, the following:

Receipts, \$33,567; expenditures, \$26,204; balance, \$7,379; amount of James L. Whitney fund, \$562.46.

The receipts in the Publishing Board were as follows:

Balance, January, 1920, \$3,928; sale of publications, \$14,795; sale of review copies, \$810; Carnegie fund income, \$5,000; refund and interest, \$90; total \$24,624.

Expenditures, \$22,669; balance \$1,955.

The report of the committee on the transfer of Library War Service showed the following: Of the 11 kinds of library service arranged under 7 headings, all but 4 have been disposed of: Army of occupation at Coblenz, Hospital service, Merchant marine and the American library at Paris.

Miss Wyeth and Miss Steere will remain in Coblenz thru February. The Public Health service has declared its intention to take over the Hospital library service but arrangements for this have not yet been completed. The Merchant Marine service was closed December 1. The committee recommend that the equipment and books be turned over to the Seamen's Church Institute with the understanding that if another organization is formed to carry on library service with the Merchant marine, the material shall be again transferred.

The efforts to create an endowment for the Paris library are slower in results than was hoped and it will probably be necessary to carry on the library with American support until July 1.

**Library Meetings**

**Brooklyn, N. Y.**—The newly organized Brooklyn public library staff association held its first meeting on the morning of December 23, at the Brownsville children's branch. Miss Hedwig Roghé, chairman of the Staff committee elected last spring, one of whose duties was to formulate plans for a permanent staff association, announced that at the recent election of officers for 1921, Miss Theresa Hitchler, superintendent of the cataloging department, had been elected president. Miss Hitchler took the chair, and announced the election of Miss Fannie C. Boies as secretary, Miss Mary A. Preston as treasurer, and four other members of the executive board, Miss Olive M. Armstrong, Miss Marion Burrows, Miss Bertha G. Crozier, and Miss Marion E. Williams.

The Staff committee gave a report on the desirability of librarians being included in the New York City Employees' Retirement system. A discussion of pensions and retirement systems followed, after which the president appointed Miss Roghé and Miss Mathews as a special pension committee, to continue their investigation of the question. The Staff committee was dismissed, with thanks. The president appointed Miss Helen R. Burdett, Miss Alice Meigs, and Miss Marion E. Williams as members of the social and program committee for the year.

FANNIE C. BOIES,  
Secretary.

**Colorado**—The Colorado library association held its thirtieth annual meeting in the Denver public library on December 9-10.

Since Colorado as a state had made no contribution to the Enlarged Program, Mr Hadley opened the session with a brief narrative on this project. Experience has shown that with the A. L. A., as with other organizations, the old war drive is a thing of the past.

C. Henry Smith of the State university, continued the discussion by telling of ten possible ways in which a library might raise funds. They are: 1, private

subscription; 2, enlist the seventh amendment workers; 3, women's clubs; 4, carnival or street fair; 5, pageant; 6, community players; 7, lecture or lecture circuit; 8, athletic contests; 9, tag day; 10, moving pictures.

The two suggestions that appealed to the audience were a movie on a percentage basis with the local movie, and a play by the community players.

Outdoor pageants were mentioned with the caution that one should carry weather insurance; athletic contests were also suggested. The community players seemed to appeal to the greater part of the audience. Finally, by a rising vote, it was decided that each community should endeavor to raise a fund for this work.

"Why should I belong to the A. L. A.?" was the topic of Charlotte A. Baker of the State agricultural college. [This paper will be given later in P. L.]

Mrs Thomas Crawford Galbreath, of the State historical library, spoke briefly on what a library should save and reject, and on the inter-relationship of all libraries in the state regarding the collection of historical material relating to Colorado. She especially urged each community to collect and keep a record of its local material.

Miss R. Maud Ditmars of the Colorado woman's college, continued the discussion on the saving and rejecting of material in a library. Her paper was largely compiled from letters sent to experienced librarians.

Miss Ditmars suggested examining the date slips of an experimental display shelf to judge the trend of the public taste, and cautioned the librarian to remember she was buying to please the public and not the trustees or the librarian. Negatively: Reject the useless. Do not be overawed by a book. Even a gift may be expensive in labor, supplies, and frequent handling. What is out of date should frequently be discarded. Lack of use is denial of efficiency.

Friday morning, Miss May W. Wiggington of the Denver library, told about her work in cataloging historical ma-

terial. She said that as the work progressed she found she was getting a panorama of frontier life and development, and gradually came to see what Americanism stood for when one considered what it had cost in hardship and in the development of character. She spoke of Americanism being a continual rebirth as the frontier moved west. Then she gave a few quotations from early letters that had both a humorous and pathetic interest. In closing, she urged all librarians to collect the records which give us our historic heritage from the past, because this is really the one common heritage that has produced our Americanism.

Mr Will Collins, librarian of the Fitzsimons General hospital, Aurora, told of his work at this recuperation camp for tubercular patients. Mr Collins said that books for the ill had three purposes: pastime; recreation or occupying the mind; rehabilitation or education for entrance into a new livelihood. Reading matter for the very ill usually consisted of "funnies" in the papers, then the more attractive sheets with the brown picture sections, and, as the patient grew stronger, he was able to read periodicals and books that were of light weight. Books for invalids should have clear print, because they are often read lying down, and then an invalid's eyes are frequently weak as is his body.

In telling what the sick liked, Mr Collins said that they preferred books of sustained interest, of action and of cheerfulness. He also said he had labeled one class of reading "stogies" because they lasted as long as it took to smoke a cigar. On an average, men prefer books that it will take two days to read. "Outing," "Recreation," "Physical culture," and the "Cosmopolitan" were among the most popular periodicals. Books whose plot is laid in England or abroad are not popular. The men want books written by American authors such as Beach, Gray, White, Wister, Davis, O. Henry, and Enos Mills. Popular poetry is represented by Kipling, Service and Shakespeare. Out-of-door essays,

essays by Frank Crane, Crothers and Stevenson were also in demand.

Miss Stebbins of the Fort Collins public library, started the discussion on Influencing the library trustees for a larger appropriation. In Fort Collins, this had been done by speaking personally to the city fathers. In the days when the city council consisted of 10 men, this had been easier than under the commission form with only three men, because two of the three may easily agree. Miss Lucy Baker of Colorado Springs, said she left all financial matters regarding budget to her trustees. It was the consensus of opinion that the trustees and influential citizens were the people who could best impress the necessity of a larger budget for the library upon the powers that be, and that this was the main work of the trustees.

Mrs W. H. Scheer, a trustee from the Eaton library, gave a history of their work which started in 1901. This library has made it possible for the local high school to be placed on the accredited list of schools for college entrance. The town library fulfills the requirement that a high school must have access to a good library. The library now has 5,000 volumes.

One of the most delightful phases of this whole conference was the number of new library speakers, and the charm of their personality. These are things that can not be easily written about.

The last session was given over to a talk about his collection of Coloradoana by Edward B. Morgan of Denver. Mr Morgan began his collection in 1887, when he was a student in Harvard. It was his pastime to attend book auctions, and one day he discovered a copy of the "History of the first regiment of Colorado in the Civil War." He had expected to purchase this for a trifle, but it was bid up to five dollars. From this incident has grown a valuable collection of from 2500 to 3000 volumes and 4000 or 5000 pamphlets. He told most interesting stories of his many treasures, many of which he showed.

In the election which followed Mrs Anna V. Duffield of the Loveland public

library, was elected president; Mrs C. Henry Smith, trustee Boulder public library, vice-president, and Miss Lena R. Fenton of the same library, secretary-treasurer. The council members for the coming year will be Chalmers Hadley of Denver, and Miss M. M. Boas, Colorado Springs public library.

By motion it was voted to have the incoming officers appoint a committee to take up the matter of legislation for a county library bill.

**Ohio**—The Akron library club, at its November meeting, decided to undertake a campaign to bring the library interests of the city to the general attention of the public. With the coöperation of the various business and general clubs of the city they are bringing forceful speakers from the library profession before the members of the clubs to explain the meaning and possibilities of up-to-date library service.

Carl P. P. Vitz, vice-librarian of the Cleveland public library, opened this campaign with a speech before the Exchange club at their regular luncheon, December 1. He was followed by Joseph L. Wheeler, librarian of the Youngstown public library, who spoke before the Rotary Club December 7. Other speakers will be brought to the city during the winter.

**Rhode Island**—The second lecture in the series under the auspices of the Library division of the State Board of education of Rhode Island was held at the Rhode Island college of education on December 8, 1920. Mr MacGregor Jenkins, publisher of the *Atlantic Monthly*, gave an address on Literature with a large "L."

The speaker was introduced by Dr Walter E. Ranger, commissioner of education. Mrs Anne W. Congdon, library visitor for the state, presided.

Many of those present attended a conference on Americanization which followed the lecture. Miss J. Maud Campbell, director of work with foreigners for the Massachusetts library commission, spoke on "The library's field in Americanization and the materials to use." Mrs Agnes M. Bacon, Rhode Island su-

pervisor of Americanization, spoke on "What the schools expect from the libraries." Lists of books were distributed during the discussion period which followed.

During the morning a demonstration in book repairing was given by Miss Sweet of the Providence public library. Many librarians and library workers were present and received much valuable information in this important detail of library work.

The large audience which gathered for these events was composed of school superintendents, teachers and prominent club women as well as librarians and library trustees.

#### American Library Institute

A meeting of the Board of the Institute was held at the Hotel La Salle on December 29.

The secretary was authorized to send out nominations of new members and to invite nominations to fill the places of those who retire.

It was decided to hold the annual meeting of the Institute at Atlantic City as usual.

ANDREW KEOGH,  
Secretary.

#### An Interesting Meeting

The meeting and dinner on January 14 of the New York Special Libraries association was a great success. Thru the efforts of the various group leaders a large attendance was secured, 184 requesting the privilege of attending, some additional ones coming in later after the dinner to listen to the discussions.

There were nine groups of special librarians, each headed by a leader, the librarians of each group being seated together. After the dinner, each group was given an opportunity to present its ideas of new and tried library methods, ways and means, or shortcuts, with a prize given to the group with the highest percentage of attendance and the individual who presented the best method.

The Medical and Chemical group under the leadership of Miss Bradley of

the National organization for public health nursing had the best attendance; fourteen out of a possible seventeen in that group were present. They received a prize of a two-pound box of candy, which they enjoyed during the course of the evening. After the dinner, an informal meeting was held and each group was given the privilege of presenting its good ideas or suggestions. The Financial group under Miss Rose had the best organized material, had it written up carefully and it was read. It contained many ideas, a dozen or more very good ones. The Commercial group under Miss Dickey of the Sinclair Consolidated Co., presented some splendid ideas on co-operation. The prize for the individual giving the best single idea was granted by the judges to Miss Van Dyne of the National Workmen's Compensation Bureau for a method used in weeding out out-of-date material from the vertical file.

The group leaders were:

Financial—Miss Alice Rose, National City Bank.

Commercial—Miss Philena Dickey, Sinclair Consolidated Co.

Accountancy, insurance and legal—Miss Edith Daly, National Council of Workmen's Compensation Insurance.

Advertisers, exporters, newspapers and publishers—Miss Harriet Elias, George Batten & Co.

Civics, public utilities and foreign—Mrs. E. G. Armstrong, Canadian Pacific Railroad Co.

Chemical and medical—Miss Florence Bradley, National Organization for Public Health Nursing.

Sociological, economic and educational—Miss Janet Melvain, American Social Hygiene Society.

Religious and clubs—Mrs. T. R. Lill, Board of Home Missions, Presbyterian Church.

Scientific and technical—Miss Helen E. Hemphill, Western Electric Co.

It was decided to ask one person of the group, Miss Lenora A. Tafel of the American Cotton Oil Company, who was designated by the president, to write up a symposium of all these ideas.

The president read a report from Miss Eugenia Wallace, Employment Bureau of the Y. W. C. A., on the employment work which that bureau has done for

the New York Special Libraries association. During the year October, 1919-20, there were 94 registrants, 48 requests for librarians and 30 placements. The association considered this quite an admirable piece of work and moved that a vote of thanks be sent to Miss Wallace for her splendid co-operation and efficiency in this work.

Miss Rankin also reported that the list of special libraries in New York City was completed and will appear in the *Library Journal*. Thru the kindness of Miss Duncan, editor of the *Library Journal*, reprints are to be made and one copy will be sent to each member of the association.

There were 33 new members secured by the membership committee during the course of the evening which brings up the total membership of the New York Special Libraries association to about 300.

REBECCA B. RANKIN,  
Librarian, Municipal Reference library.  
President, New York Special Libraries  
Association.

#### Books for Convalescents

"A list of recommendations" given in "A Line O' Type or Two" by the beloved B. L. T. of Chicago may give a helpful hint to a puzzled desk assistant who is asked for "something nice for a sick person to read."

For those who are more flu-ed against than flu-ing or who, like Charles Lamb, are enjoying convalescence:

"Gullible's Travels," because it's the funniest thing that Ring Lardner ever wrote.

"Spanish Gold," by G. A. Birmingham, because it is a fascinating, funny Irish mystery story.

"In the Fog," by Richard Harding Davis, because it is one of the best detective stories ever written, and it's short.

"Second Youth," by Allan Updegraff, because it's an amusing story of a man of 40 and his first love affair.

"The Shropshire Lad," by A. E. Housman, because they are the loveliest little lyrics that were ever written.

"The Bab Ballads," by W. S. Gilbert, because they are the funniest ones.

"Denry the Audacious," by Arnold Bennett, because it is sheer, audacious fun.

"Tony Bungay," by H. G. Wells, because you may have missed it and you missed a real pleasure in it.

### A New Meeting Place

The greatest delights in the life of many library workers are the opportunities which come to them as members of the library craft to leave behind them the cares and duties of their daily life and foregather in the beauty spots of nature.

For many years the joys of the outdoors have been interwoven with professional discussions in the Catskills and the Adirondacks, the New England resorts and hills for the Eastern sections of the country, on the shores of the Great Lakes in the Middle-west and again in the far West, at mountain and coast spots of great beauty.

These meetings have been occasions of much pleasure and much profit to those fortunate enough to be present. Away from the disturbing din and attractions of the city, the librarians have come to know each other better, both personally and professionally, have had glorious opportunity to wander at will among the hills and valleys, to listen to the voice of Nature as she "speaks a varied language," suited always to the ear and mind of those who seek her companionship. Be the stay out of doors long or short, one always returns with rested mind and body, restored balance and an added power to perform the daily work, the value of which cannot be measured.

To those various places scattered over the wide country, which have thus contributed to the physical, spiritual and mental welfare of such visitors, another has been added to the front ranks in the wonderfully beautiful resort on Signal Mountain, near Chattanooga, Tenn.

The rapidly growing library work in the southeast, to a few leading librarians, seemed to call for a conference of those charged with the responsibility of its direction and development and so a call was issued in October for such a meeting at Signal Mt. hotel.

An account of the meeting itself was given in December PUBLIC LIBRARIES, but much more could be said about the wonderful meeting place than was given there or can be given here. The call for

another meeting at the same place in a short while may not be expedient if librarians give full value in time, effort and money to their several state meetings and to the A. L. A. meetings, but the charm of the locality and its comfortable provisions for a meeting offer the strongest inducement to a return to Signal Mt. as soon and as often as possible.

From the crest of Signal Mt., 2,000 feet high, one looks on wondrous beauty of landscape in every direction. The great gorges cut in ages past by water, ice and upheaval, almost entirely surround the place. Mountains are on every side beyond the gorges and the Tennessee river, with its slow-running, deep current, divides itself around island and obstructions of piled up stones to wander northward lost among the valleys of other mountain ranges.

In the far distance, gleam out the lights of Chattanooga, beyond which Lookout Mt. rears its historic head, and one recalls that Missionary Ridge, and Chickamauga Park, not far off, keep watch over the silent dead who, clad in blue and in grey, long years ago, laid down their lives in defense of what each thought was right.

In between and everywhere, lie the forests, from bottom to top. Both gorge and mountain, clad in the flaming colors of the autumn days, flashed out a welcome to their midst to the tired city workers. Blue skies shone joyously in the glorious sunshine by day and at night, the young moon with millions of twinkling stars in its circles, gazed calmly down on weary head and heart, stilling with the wisdom of long ages, the restlessness of body and soul, tired from trying to set right the mistakes of the times.

Four days of perfect surroundings, of comfortable quarters, good food and courteous service did much for all who were privileged to enjoy it. Over and over, one heard the wish expressed that other library friends were present, indeed, that the A. L. A. itself might come, tho one knew that could scarcely be at present. One weary soul, later, enjoyed the heavenly rest there for a week.

Here and there thruout the region

there has been some splendid work in library extension carried on. There are a number of librarians of training and experience, well able to lead in a forward movement in that section of the country, and there being a general interest in many directions in library service, the library cause is ready to develop in a most unusual fashion with any expenditure of work and money.

#### Discussions

At the close of the meeting there was considerable discussion as to whether formal organization was advisable looking to future meetings in the Southeast. A very distinct difference of opinion appeared, so that a committee was appointed to consider and act accordingly, as to the wisdom of having future special meetings of the southeastern librarians.

The topics discussed at the conference were practical, relating to library conditions in the South, and many good suggestions were made. Miss Templeton of Georgia was very explicit in her advice as to library legislation. A rather new idea advocated by her, was to have a maximum amount of tax mentioned in a law rather than the minimum, since trustees are psychologically affected by the amount of revenue mentioned, and invariably decide on the minimum amount if it is stated.

Miss Barker of the Cossit library of Memphis was most entertaining as well as enlightening in regard to the problem of library service for negroes in her story of the invaluable William Jones whose tribe unfortunately is much reduced in numbers.

Mr Josselyn's story of how, thru distributing small bits of information concerning industrial and technical activities in Birmingham, he has been able to enlarge and create interest in the use of books among the Birmingham business men. His ability to act as a street-car directory brought him public commendation and favor, which Mr Josselyn regarded as something of a joke, altho well pleased at the results secured for his library.

Dr Rutland of Auburn, Alabama, gave an interesting talk, interesting because it

showed in a new way what the school man's idea of the librarian is, principally, that she is the hand-maiden of the teacher.

Mr Stone of the George Peabody college for teachers at Nashville, related the obstacles in the way of impressing the students of a college with library work as a vocation, since the library, subject to the limitations of school people, does not offer a very attractive outlook for recruits to the library service.

One of the most delightful phases of the program was that conducted by Miss Freeman of Goodwyn Institute library, Memphis. Miss Freeman in her charming and inimitable manner, introduced a number of the delegates whom she had asked to present their appraisal of recent books. Just the right word in the right way at the right time in the introduction, started the speakers with a feeling of confidence which did much to add to the charm of their opinions as to the books assigned them. It would be hard to find a more pleasing presentation than that given by Miss Freeman and those she called upon during the session.

Mr Marron of Jacksonville, Florida, and Mr C. Seymour Thompson of Savannah, Georgia, developed discussion of many of the ideas advanced during the meeting, and both acted thruout the meetings as a sort of reserve corps to push along interest in all the discussions.

The committee in charge of the meeting was Miss Mary A. Rothrock, of Knoxville, chairman, Miss Charlotte Templeton and the presidents of the seven state library associations represented.

One of the most enjoyable things of the meeting was the luncheon given to the visiting librarians by the Board of the Chattanooga library. Mr John J. Mahoney, a well known business man in Chattanooga and president of the library board there, acted as host in a most felicitous manner. Mr Mahoney, at the first session, had expressed cordial welcome to the librarians, and with his naturally pleasant manner, won, in a large measure, the approval and confidence of the visitors. He completed his conquest as

host at the Chattanooga luncheon and by his courteous entertainment of the few remaining visitors who visited the Chattanooga library on Sunday. Many visitors expressed the opinion that the A. L. A. could fill a large measure of usefulness to the trustees' section by inducing Mr Mahoney to attend the meeting of trustees at the A. L. A.

Thru the courtesy of the library directors and the Woman's club, automobiles were furnished, and a most delightful, interesting drive thru the beautiful streets and historic surroundings of Chattanooga occupied one afternoon. Lookout Mountain, Missionary Ridge, Chickamauga Park and Fort Oglethorpe, the country club and other choice spots, filled the afternoon with pleasure.

#### The Dust Problem in Public Libraries

The dust problem is one in which all libraries are concerned. Jaegues W. Redway, the well known geographer, has discussed the problem in the *Medical Times* for May, 1920. Mr Redway considers dust as ranking next to contaminated water as a menace to public health. Most of the dust that enters the library is born of the nearby streets. It consists of paving material, ashes, garbage, animal excreta, etc., etc.

The dust created within the building is troublesome. It is better to prevent it from flying than to remove it. Polished floors help and practically none will fly from an oiled or varnished floor. Except for the noise, tiled floors are good. Dust will not fly from a linoleum floor if the linoleum is of the best quality.

The thumbed parts of book leaves carry about every sort of dust rubbed into the leaves and the covers by soiled hands. The finger-stained surfaces are rich in germ life; but not in a single instance among the books examined were pathogenic germs present.

Dusting the tops of books is always a matter of difficulty. No matter in what slant the dust question is viewed, the real problem gets down to the basis already noted: it is not how to get dust out of the library, it is how to prevent dust from getting into the building.

#### Chouteau County Free Library

[The following much appreciated letter, from the librarian, accompanied this story. Editor.]

Noting that you are contemplating a county library number, perhaps you might like something on our county library which is the first and largest absolute county library in Montana. Missoula County has a larger library to draw from for it does contract work with the city but this one does county work first, last and always. I was interested to note at the Pacific N. W. Association that Mr. Ferguson of California advised against contract work if it were in any way possible to get around it and that being my notion I was pleased as well as interested.

We have a staff of four and have just finished a course with an apprentice class.

PAULINE MADDEN.

Chouteau County free library, Ft. Benton, Montana, established and opened to the public, April, 1916, was the first county library established in Montana under the county library law and it now is housed in a Carnegie building, furnished and equipped with Library Bureau furniture. This library is not only the oldest but the largest library established primarily for county work in Montana. The county is large containing about 4500 square miles of territory. The library owns and runs a book wagon which the busy all summer, has to give way to the parcel post service in winter.

This library takes an active part in the life of town and county as noticed by a prize won on a float entered, October, 1920, at the County fair—a large float carrying a huge open book, of a de luxe edition. The title of the book read, Americanization, Immigration. The open page read, "Good Books Make Good Citizens," along the sides of the float were banners "Better Books for Everybody," and the library sign. On the back of the float were three couples of immigrants sitting on their baggage and three more immigrants sat in the front and drove the car. The money won from this float was used to help buy the Evolution of a Book series for the reading room.

Statistics of the County library since May, 1917, are as follows:

Books added—	
May 1917.....	3,752
June 1918 .....	5,946

November 1919 .....	11,220
June 1920 .....	13,100
New borrowers—	
June 1918 .....	1,088
June 1919 .....	2,102
June 1920 .....	4,326
Circulation—	
1917-18 .....	19,840
1918-19 .....	22,070
1919-20 .....	31,573
Branches 1920, 45 including 22 schools serving their communities.	

### New Jersey Township Libraries

The high prices of books and the advancing salaries have made it almost impossible for the smaller communities to support their libraries adequately. Many of the townships in New Jersey are very large, embracing from 10 to 20 unincorporated communities and from 7 to 15 schools. We have consolidated schools, why not have consolidated libraries operated on the plan of a large city system with many branches in these large townships? Every school would then be supplied and the whole township would have the benefit of a trained librarian.

Middletown township, Monmouth county, with 11 communities, has voted for a township library which means the township can own a collection of books chosen to serve all the people and all the interests of the township; these books to be so distributed that every individual in the township will have easy access to them. Constant exchange of books will keep each collection interesting and useful. Instead of several small public libraries and a number of school libraries with duplication of books, and books on their shelves unused, every community, organization, school and individual can be served from the township collection with the books they need and want. The constant rotation of books makes 1,000 books do the work of 10,000.

Large communities should provide a collection of books with a reading room under the charge of an assistant. In small communities, collections of books can be placed in postoffices,

stores, schools and other places for general use, and with churches, educational, civic, agricultural and commercial organizations to serve their people. For the scattered population, the librarian provided with a Ford car for transportation of books, can serve the people at a distance from any center directly from the car.

This takes the place of the two small struggling free public libraries, six traveling library stations and seven indifferent school libraries. Will not this township plan help solve some of the library problems of the state? The law permits a township adjoining a municipality to join with that municipality in a public library. Will not the large libraries look about them and see whether they cannot help by encouraging adjoining townships to vote to join with them and so have library service on the plan outlined above? It means more money for the city library and service otherwise unobtainable for the occasional township with scattered communities in counties with too many large municipalities to effectively support a county library.

Miss Matilda Betham-Edwards wanted to celebrate the end of sixty years of work by a volume of her recollections but she died just before "Mid-Victorian memories" was published. The book contains sketches of about eighteen famous men and women whom she had known more or less intimately during her long life.

A decided impression of each character is given for the papers are written with a shrewd yet sympathetic judgment. The most vivid accounts are those of Coventry Patmore, George Eliot and Henry James.

At the beginning of her literary career, Miss Betham-Edwards met George Eliot and was proud of the friendship that followed. She gives a picture of life at the Priory with Mr Lewes and his jokes. She describes their famous Sunday afternoons and the ordeal it was for a country-bred girl to enter that circle of great spirits, including Herbert Spencer, Browning, William Morris and Sir Frederick Leighton.

As a preface to the book there is a personal sketch of Miss Betham-Edwards by her friend, Sarah Grand, which shows this gentle yet keen little lady as she was known to her friends.

H. G. R.

### Interesting Things in Print

The Church library association of Cambridge, Mass., has issued a list of books recommended by Sunday school and parish libraries.

*Record of Scientific Literature* (Van Nostrand) for December carries an unusual number of titles of practical books on industrial subjects suitable for school and public library service.

The Guaranty Trust Company of New York has issued a pamphlet of 160 pages setting out bank and public holidays thruout the world. This may be had on application to the Guaranty Trust Company of New York.

A handbook descriptive of the resources and services of the Public library of the District of Columbia has been printed from its Trustees' annual report for 1920 and is available for general distribution.

*The School Bulletin*, prepared by the School Library division of the Indianapolis public library for January, contains a very good annotated list of references on Thrift in the children's department at the Central library.

*The Bulletin* of the Boston public library, No. 4, gives a very interesting presentation of the extension of the library service of that library. A notable facsimile document given is that of the "resolution of the Committee of Safety in relation to the fortification of Bunker Hill, ordered June 15, 1775."

*The News Notes on Government Publications* of the Boston public library for December 15 gives a very interesting and clear exposition on "A bill and how to trace it." Notes are also given on Government publications in agriculture, commerce, labor, vocational education and the United States tariff commission.

An address by Bernard M. Baruch of New York City at a reunion of the members of the War Industries Board at Washington, D. C., December 1, has been issued in pamphlet form. "Putting farming on a business basis," another address, to the Kansas State Board of Agriculture, has also been issued. Both are

good contributions to business material in a reference room.

One of the best of publicity letters was that of G. W. Lee in the Boston *Transcript* of December 22. In an effort to create interest in his well-known hobby, sponsorship for knowledge, Mr Lee put down the advantages of the Boston public library in a direct attractive fashion which deserved and doubtless will receive attention and contract an interest that will add to the growing usefulness of the Boston public library.

As a souvenir of the Pilgrim Tercentenary celebration, the Free public library of Jersey City has published a pamphlet (20 p.) giving a brief history of the Pilgrims and the founding of the Plymouth colony. This pamphlet was compiled by the librarian for the use of the schools. It was distributed in large numbers in the local schools where it was used in studies and exercises connected with the celebration. The Jersey City library has also published a 12 page reading list on the Pilgrims. Libraries may obtain copies of these pamphlets on request.

A reading list for students on United States history has been issued by the Brown University library. This is a development of the check list started at the University of Illinois by Mr F. K. W. Drury. The present list is annotated which is a decided help to young students who wish to make a careful study of American history. The list is divided into general books, books on special periods, books on special aspects, biographies and a guide to further study.

A note states that the object of this list is to name a few books on United States history which it would be useful for young citizens to read. Mere textbooks are not included and library books in many volumes relating to limited periods such as those by Bancroft, Adams and McMaster are omitted. All of the books named are in the Brown University library and in most public libraries of any size. No book has been named which would not be regarded as interesting by any student who really cares about the history of his country.

**Library Schools****Carnegie library school, Pittsburgh**

The Carnegie library school opened after a two weeks' Christmas vacation, on Monday, January 3, with Mrs Irene Farnham Conrad, head of the Social Science department, Margaret Morrison Carnegie school, Carnegie Institute of Technology, beginning her course of 10 lectures in Social agencies.

Miss Vanda E. Kerst, instructor of Spoken English, Pennsylvania college for women, commenced a short course of six lectures in public speaking, on January 3.

Miss Inez Crandle, librarian, Public library, Dubois, Pa., is giving four lectures, January 11 and 18 to the school on Administration of small libraries.

January 19, Miss Annie C. Moore will speak to the school on The Children's library at home and abroad.

Abigail C. Hawkins, diploma '19, has accepted a position as assistant in the reference department, Carnegie library of Pittsburgh.

Adeline M. Macrum, diploma '15, has resigned her position as technical reference librarian for the Morris Knowles Company, Pittsburgh, Pa., to become librarian of the Tuberculosis League, Pittsburgh.

Maud W. Marston, certificate '15, was married to James Ironside, Redford, Michigan, 1920.

Helen M. Sullivan, certificate '16, was married on November 27, 1920, to Kirwan F. Sweeney.

**NINA C. BROTHERTON,**  
Principal.

**Drexel Institute L. S. A. A.**

The Drexel Institute library school alumnae association held its annual dinner, December 6, at the College club, Philadelphia. There were 12 members present at the dinner with several additional persons in attendance at the business meeting which followed it.

The following officers were elected for the coming year:

President, Miss Mary P. Farr; vice-president, Mrs Theodora C. Blodget; secretary, Miss Susan Edith Black; treasurer, Miss Caroline B. Perkins.

Acknowledgment of the gift of \$50 for the A. L. A. Enlarged Program was read. This money will be applied to the work of the section for the blind.

Miss Perkins who attended the A. L. A. conference at Colorado Springs, re-

ported 15 members and guests present at the dinner.

It is interesting to note that, while the Drexel Institute library school has ceased to exist as a school, it has more than 70 active members in its alumnae association.

**SUSAN E. BLACK,**  
Secretary.  
Tacony branch library, Philadelphia.

**Los Angeles public library**

Dr and Mrs Walter Lindley entertained the faculty and school at tea, December 8. Dr Lindley gave a fascinating talk on his collection of books and the eighteenth century imprints. Linton, Jacob Tonson, and the first edition of Dryden, were especially interesting as the class has just completed study of these publishing houses. Dr Lindley's collection of first editions of Dibdin also delighted the bibliographical enthusiasts.

The class filled Christmas stockings for 30 Russian and Mexican children, near one of the branches.

Two of the students who worked the week before Christmas in Parker's book-store found their library training useful in looking at books and people from a different angle.

Mr Reavis completed his course in bookbinding during the month. Another special lecturer was Purd B. Wright, who described the Kansas City branches in school buildings.

Elizabeth Ellsworth, '16, was married to Herbert Eccleston, December 29.

**MARION HORTON,**  
Principal.

**New York public library**

Programs are now complete for the various open courses, which begin on February 7 and continue thru March and April, and may be had upon request. The course in Book selection contains a notable list of speakers:

February 10. International economic cooperation.—Thomas W. Lamont, J. P. Morgan and Co.

February 17. Three great Victorians: Arnold, Browning and Carlyle.—Dr. John Kelman, pastor, Fifth Ave., Presbyterian church, New York.

- February 24. American ideals.—Allen T. Burns, director of the "Study of methods of Americanization."
- March 3. Topic to be announced.—S. K. Ratcliffe, English journalist and lecturer.
- March 10. How to choose books on the war for libraries with limited funds. Dr. Herbert Adams Gibbons, author of "The new map of Europe," "France and ourselves."
- March 17. The industrial plant library and how it can be encouraged.—Ida M. Tarbell, editor and author.
- March 24. Suggestions to the children's librarian from modern education.—Dr. William H. Kilpatrick, professor of education, Teachers college.
- March 31. Books dealing with social and industrial reconstruction.—Corinne Bacon, editor of the "Standard Catalog" series.
- April 7. Criticism in reviewing.—Henry Seidel Canby, editor of *Literary Review, N. Y. Evening Post*.
- April 14. The Newspaper.—Frank I. Cobb, editor, *The N. Y. World*.
- April 21. Biography versus the biographical novel, with a glance at a few biographies.—Corinne Bacon.
- April 28. To be announced

These lectures will be given with reference to the literature of the topic concerned, and in all instances collections of books on the subjects of the evenings will be assembled and made the basis of round tables, to be held just previous to the lectures. This course is open in the fullest sense, there being no fee, and the invitation to attend being extended to all persons who are interested.

The school is hearing this month lectures by Charles F. D. Belden of Boston, and Miss Linda Eastman of Cleveland, who are visiting a number of the eastern library schools upon joint invitation of the schools. The programs for the Wednesday afternoon social hours in January have included a talk by Harry Franck, author of "A Vagabond journey around the world" and other books, and by Clinton Scollard, the poet.

The Junior class of 1920 has recently made a gift of \$67 to the Mary Wright Plummer Memorial loan fund. This fund is employed to help students who find that they need small amounts to meet the financial requirements of the year. The contribution just received will be a very material addition to it.

ERNEST J. REECE.

#### Pratt Institute

The class had an enjoyable and novel experience on January 7. With the approval of Lt. Colonel H. M. Bankhead, Education and Recreation officer, Mrs Grace H. Birdsall, '95, librarian of the Second Army Corps area, invited the school to visit Governor's Island on Friday afternoon. Mrs Birdsall and her assistant, Miss Rosamond McIntosh, '14, met us at the boat and showed us all the points of interest on the Island, including, of course, the Post library and the headquarters of the work of the Second Army Corps area. In Colonel Bankhead's absence, Captain Burns gave an interesting talk on the importance of the library in promoting army morale. Refreshments and an impromptu dance in the Post cafeteria concluded a thoroughly delightful occasion.

The lectures of the second term are planned so as to present to the class the administrative problems of different types of libraries. The first of the series was given on Tuesday afternoon, January 4, by Miss Norma B. Bennett, '00, librarian of the Public library at Madison, New Jersey, who spoke on the relations of the small town library to the small town. On January 11, Howard L. Hughes, librarian of the Trenton public library gave a very practical talk on the medium-sized library, emphasizing book selection, the problems involved in choosing and organizing a staff and in getting the library to function.

The announcement has been received by the school of the marriage on January 1 of Miss Emma Rood, '12, to Oliver Ritchie Cooke. They will make their home in Carnegie, Pennsylvania.

Miss Belle Schnurer, '19, has taken a position in the cataloging department of the Brooklyn public library.

JOSEPHINE ADAMS RATHBONE,  
Vice-Director.

#### St. Louis

The students were, for the second time, invited to join the Arcade Book Shop, to help care for the Christmas trade, and this enriched their book knowledge and

their enjoyment of work with the public by experience from a different angle. This sort of work is in accordance with the recent suggestion of Miss Gertrude Andrus who recommended in a talk to the Pacific Northwest library association, "two weeks' practical experience in commercial selling of books as a part of every library school course." The students also assisted in the care of the Christmas exhibit of books at the Central library.

During a recent visit to St. Louis, Miss Margery Quigley, formerly an instructor in the library school, now librarian of the Public library, Endicott, N. Y., gave a most interesting and valuable lecture on the administration of a small library.

Another recent visitor and speaker was Miss Lutie E. Stearns who lectured on "Pioneering in State Library Commission work." Miss Stearns was also a guest at an informal school tea.

Dr C. C. Williamson representing the Carnegie Corporation spent January sixth in St. Louis making a survey of the library school.

Janabe Fazel Mazandarani, professor of philosophy in the University of the Shah, Teheran, Persia, spoke before the library school on November 23, 1920. He told of how the Bahais in Persia were working to establish libraries and schools. Several noblemen, he said, have given their homes for libraries. Seventy years ago Baha'o'llah advocated and helped to establish libraries particularly for the study of comparative religion and the unity of religions.

Following the course in binding, the students made a tour of the library bindery with Miss Mary E. Wheelock, chief of the department, and visited the Crunden branch library, for "local color" in connection with a lecture given by the librarian, Miss Sarah Bailey, on "Work with foreigners."

A. E. B.

#### Simmons college

On November 23, Dr C. C. Williamson visited the school upon the business of an investigation for the Carnegie Corporation. He also generously granted us an hour's time in which he

spoke to the graduating class on "The Economics department of the New York public library."

The Corporation of Simmons College announced a bonus for this year to all members of the instructing staff and of the library staff who have been with the college for one year. The rate of increase is 15 per cent, except where that would bring the total beyond the salary limit of the grade.

The term examinations were held just before the Christmas recess. An interesting new feature was the three-hour psychological test, devised by Dr Roback of the psychology department, which all the Freshmen were required to take. A group of Seniors also voluntarily underwent the test. The results have not yet been interpreted.

The second term opened January 3. The new courses are: Senior cataloging, Book selection for the one-year group, History of libraries, and Journals and field work, common to both groups.

The first visit of the term was to the North End branch of the Boston public library.

Mr Harmon, of Brown-Howland, spoke to the class on "Commercial indexing and filing."

Miss Dorothy Eaton, on the College library staff, was married during the holidays to Charles Frederick Goodnow, Jr. Mrs Goodnow will remain on the staff, however, for the rest of the year.

Miss Marie Randall, of the instructing staff of the school, is resigning from full-time work on February 1. The school is fortunate in being able to retain her services to conduct the course in Documents from April to June.

Miss Mary Elizabeth Wood, librarian of Boone University, Wuchang, China, who took a special course at Simmons in 1918-19, has just sent the Simmons College library school staff a picture of herself surrounded by the staff and students of the first library school in China, which she has started this last year.

In the death of Eleanor T. Horne the Simmons library school has lost one of its most valued graduates.

Miss Horne received her M. A. from Wellesley, and was for a few years a teacher of English and History, before she decided to enter the library profession.

During the year of 1916-17, when she carried the Library School course at Simmons, she endeared herself to all her associates there by her personal charm, and won their admiration for her intellectual ability.

Her first position was as librarian at the State normal school, Cortland, N. Y., a position she thoroughly enjoyed, though her work was swept away by the disastrous fire there two years ago.

In September, 1919, she was appointed librarian of the Public library, Milton, Mass., but unfortunately, before she could make the most of this larger opportunity, her physical strength failed her, and in April, 1920, she resigned.

Her long illness ended at her home in Framingham Center on January 10.

JUNE RICHARDSON DONNELLY,  
Director.

#### University of Washington

The winter quarter began with a few changes in the school, one student dropping out because of ill health, and two others entering.

#### Alumnae notes

Consuelo Welty, '20, was married in December to Frank Strong, and is at home in Seattle.

Charlotte Bergoust, '20, is senior assistant in the circulation department of the Tacoma public library.

Mary Ferguson, '18, is at home in Colby, Kansas.

Elizabeth Henry is on a leave of absence from Seattle to attend the Library school of the New York public library.

Marjorie Zinkie, '14, has resigned from the Raymond public library to attend the Library school of the New York public library.

Dorothy Richards, '20, is an assistant in the New York public library.

Corinne Ruttle, '18, has resigned from the staff of the Yakima public library, and is in the children's department of the Seattle public library.

W. H. HENRY,  
Director.

#### University of Wisconsin

Class work was resumed Monday, January 3, and at noon the students attended the inaugural of Wisconsin's new governor. A lecture on the work of the State traveling library department by Miss Long was followed by a visit of inspection in groups.

The plan followed in 1919 regarding

mending practice has been resumed. January 10-22 was "mending week" on the schedule with Caroline C. Shaw (class of 1915) again as supervisor. The students reported in groups each afternoon for practice.

Courses in subject bibliography by Miss Hazeltine and library publicity by Miss Merrill were commenced in January.

Assignments for eight weeks of field practice, beginning February 3 and ending March 29 were announced on January 11. Students will have experience in 21 libraries thruout the state, including public libraries of varying sizes, normal school libraries, a bank library, and in the departments of the Library commission.

A Christmas tea preceded the close of school for the holiday recess, December 17-January 3. Mrs Thorne-Thomsen and Miss Mary F. Carpenter were guests of honor. Miss Carpenter had been connected with the school as instructor from its establishment until 1917, when she resigned to go to Hawaii. Following the reception, two little plays, *The Princess Whom No One Could Silence* and *A Tramp and a Night's Lodging* were read dramatically by groups of the students. The plays are dramatizations from great folk tales and were prepared under Mrs Thorne-Thomsen's direction by students in the Story-telling and dramatic classes, Chicago school of civics and philanthropy.

A vacation tea on the first Wednesday in January gave opportunity for informal reports of library visits made and meetings attended during the vacation period by both faculty and students. The school was represented at the Chicago mid-winter meetings by Mr Lester, Miss Hazeltine, Miss Merrill, Miss Long and Miss Welles; 16 graduates of the school also attended these meetings.

Florence M. Fisher, '13, was married to Murray D. Welch, December 31. At home, Popular avenue, River Edge, N. J.

Gertrude E. Thiebaud, '12, was married to R. U. McDuff, December 11. Mrs McDuff is continuing her work as A. L. A. librarian at Ft. McHenry, Baltimore, Md.

Lena V. Brownell, '09, who had a leave of

absence last year from Public Library Association, Portland, Oregon, completed work for her bachelor's degree at the University of Michigan. On her return to Portland this fall, she was made chief of the catalog department.

#### Summer school

The University of Michigan is making arrangements to have an advanced course of instruction for librarians of experience in its summer school. For this course, Professors A. S. Root of Oberlin, and Frank K. Walter, formerly of New York state, will be added to the staff of instructors already connected with the University library.

#### The Romance of Book Discovery

There is a trail to each new discovery, and the one which leads to new discoveries in books surely bears more than any other "the dear and dafting face of adventure." This is a tale of the road I traveled when Philip Moeller intrigued me with the witching personality of Madame Sand. She seemed too full of fascination to be real. I knew nothing of her outside the rather shady allusions gleaned through bits of desultory reading and a fleeting glimpse obtained in second-year French. To the library shelves I went in quest of biographies of George Sand. They sat there neatly in a row. Apparently no one else was interested in her. Whether the life by René Doumic is the most authoritative one, I know not, but it gave the ring of truth to Moeller's picture.

The stupid and insipid lovers interested me not at all. Madame Sand was endowed with vagaries I cannot comprehend. She did begin to show considerable discrimination toward the end. But Heine, dear whimsical Heine, Moeller apparently loved as well as I. So, having convinced myself that the character of Madame Sand had apparently not been exaggerated, I started out in quest of more Heine. I chanced upon his *Memoirs*, which in my ignorance I had thus far passed by. Henceforth I shall press those two enthraling volumes upon every likely person

I meet. What could be more delightful than Heine's account of his fruitless struggles with Latin? And where is anything more beautiful than his half-wistful story of first love, his thralldom to Josepha the Pale, the wierd little Red Sefchen who sang folk-songs for him and kissed him across the magic sword?

Somewhere in one of his letters Heine says, "I am sending you the note which Varnhagen's wife wrote me . . . She is the cleverest woman I have ever met." Who is this Frau Varnhagen? A name mentioned casually in German classes a time or two recurs to me. Rahel Varnhagen! Another quest through the library shelves and I find that charming and supremely sympathetic life of Rahel written by Ellen Key. How proud I am to have run so far an my adventure when I read in the introduction, "Among even cultured Germans, men and women, to whom I have spoken of Rahel, five out of ten know nothing of her!" How much more proud when I read, "My aim has been to give a portrait of the greatest woman the Jewish race has produced; to my mind also the greatest woman Germany can call her daughter." This is truly a wonderful biography and I have yet a feeling of gratitude to Philip Moeller! Why do we let such an illuminating book sit undisturbed on the shelves of our library? It is so much more than a mere biography. Rahel Varnhagen was the embodiment of the things for which Ellen Key has so long been the vigorous champion.

From Rahel I went to Brandes' "Young Germany" for his never-failing master touch upon the literary development of Rahel's generation. But a book adventure never ends. The tale is not yet told; it is still in the making. There was little purposeful intent in my wanderings and no well-laid plan. I could not be held up as an example for an earnest student of literature. But all the more joy in it for me! I am a librarian. I can follow the will-o-the-wisp of my fancy and gather "white hyacinths for my soul."

When a professor of economics writes "Moonbeams from the larger lunacy," it is never safe to assume in advance what any author's work may be. Yet how could one foretell that J. C. Van Dyke's "Grand Canyon of the Colorado" (Scribner) was a studious review of the geologic features of "the world of hues?"

It seems profitable to note the book is not before dwelling upon it as it is, since a "description and travel" may mean any one of many types. This one is not a parlor table gift book, nor a how-to-do-it guide, nor a verbal painting in extravagant superlatives, nor an expanded lecture to be read aloud.

Instead of doing any of these, Professor Van Dyke chooses to trace the geologic formation of this "Titan of chasms" in semi-popularized scientific detail for half the pages, then from Chapter 11 on, he allows himself more descriptive passages on scenic beauty, history, fauna and flora. Only occasionally does the reader perceive the enthusiast, or recognize the studio vocabulary replacing the scientific nomenclature.

The illustrations are half-tones from standard photographs and the bibliography, which this type of book usually furnishes, is lacking. Despite some disappointments, which the reader will feel if he has ever seen the Canyon, the book should be endorsed for the large library. The small library having the more popular James and the free pamphlets issued by the Sante Fé and the Department of the Interior may omit it.

It is not necessary to be a smoker to enjoy "Pipefuls," in fact non-smokers may forget the lack of the weed in the puffs of amusing whimsies here gathered or "edified" from the pages of newspapers and magazines.

Christopher Morley is a merry "columunist," even in his confessions which admit the casual readers to the sanctum of pungent cynicism. Who else could write such Bible commentaries as: "The original of all paragraphers—Ecclesiastes—came very near ending as a complete

cynic; though in what F. P. A. would call his 'last line' he managed to wiggle into a more hopeful mood."

Should one contemplate the ordeal of moving, let him read his essay on that subject and profit his soul—"The brutal task of taking one's home on trek is (we can argue) a stirring tonic, a kind of private rehearsal of the Last Judgment, when the sheep shall be divided from the shoats."

For the lovers of Philadelphia and New York, his essays (we almost said etchings) will open seeing eyes to the delights of doughnut shops, or "Amsterdam Avenue of the many laundries," or the wind: "The subway is New York's home of Aeolus, and most of the gusts that buffet us on the streets are merely hastening round the corner in search of the nearest subway entrance so that they can get down there where they feel they belong."

According to the reader's or smoker's mood is this to be weighed with "Mince Pie" of a previous year, but both should be placed in the hands of the t. b. m., his wife, the teacher, the preacher, and without fail the librarian who will then have every one in town reading them.

One of the most welcome books is a long time is Forest products, their manufacture and use, by Nelson Courtland Brown, "embracing the principal commercial features in the production, manufacture, and utilization of the most important forest products other than lumber." The author is professor of forest utilization in the New York state college of forestry and the book is the result of personal investigations.

The first chapter is largely statistical and covers production, consumption, prices, etc. The following chapters deal with the various forest products, giving the source, character, manufacture and uses. The field has been almost entirely covered by chapters on the following: wood pulp and paper, tanning materials, veneers, cooperage, naval stores, distillation, box-making, cross ties, poles and posts and their

preservation, fuel wood, shingles and shakes, maple sugar, rubber, dye-woods, excelsior and cork. Each chapter has an excellent bibliography appended, the index is good and the illustrations are especially good, showing in many industries machinery and manufacturing processes.

#### Scenes from Italy's War

Many hastily written records of the war are likely to have only a temporary value, as they suffer from two disabilities. They have not the perspective of time to give to each event its true value and its relation to other events; and they have not been recorded by trained men, accustomed to distinguish the relevant from the irrelevant, the permanent from the transient, to subordinate the trivial and emphasize the important. In Mr. Trevelyan's *Scenes from Italy's war* we have the work of a skillful historian, who knows his Italy well, has written several volumes on the great patriot, Garibaldi, and who for his present work had three years of preparation in the area where the scenes were enacted. Going to Italy in the summer of 1915, soon after the momentous decision of May which brought Italy to the side of the Allies, the author became the commander of the First Ambulance Unit of the British Red Cross on the Italian front, where he remained until the days of final victory. His account of the work of his unit is deeply interesting, and gives a vivid picture of the frightful strain, the patient endurance, and the immense loss of life in that Alpine region where the Italian fighting was so largely done.

But the main interest and value of the book lies in the understanding of Italian character, and of its influence on some of the crises of the war. One follows with conviction his description of the successive steps in the progress of the struggle along the Isonzo front, his analysis of the forces of disruption and disintegration that caused the disaster of Caporetto, and the regeneration of national spirit that restored the morale and prestige of the army. He throws the glamor of romance over the various types of Italian soldier—the picturesque Alpini, the Bersaglieri, the Arditi; he makes very human the leading soldiers and patriots; he makes memorable pen pictures of the wild Alpine heights and gorges. The combination of charm in the graphic portraiture of details, with power in skillful analysis of underlying causes and effects, makes one read with the confidence that comes from the knowledge that the work bears the stamp of authority.

For an hour or more of perfect joy, the one with the heart of a child and

it full of love for a child will find Roads to childhood, Views and reviews of books by Annie Carroll Moore, all that one could wish for whether one be librarian or layman.

Nothing new in it? There is nothing new under the sun. I hadn't thought of it, perhaps it is so, but even then it is old things told in a new way. The charm of one who knows and loves children, who knows books for them and about them, who wants everybody to help bring individual children and the very books written for each child together, flows from the pages of the little volume, and when one lays it down because of lack of time to read farther, a feeling of pleasure and regret arises—pleasure for the delightful reading and regret that the reading came so late. And how grateful we shall all be for the index! Why doesn't the average book give us an index that will tell us what is in it? If its writer had ever been a librarian, he surely would do so.

To tell a good book from a bad one is, then, a troublesome job, demanding, first, a strong understanding; second, knowledge, the result of study and comparison; third, a delicate sentiment. If you have some measure of these gifts, which, tho in part the gift of the gods, may also be acquired and can always be improved, and can avoid prejudice,—political prejudice, social prejudice, religious prejudice, irreligious prejudice, the prejudices of the place where you could not help being born, the prejudices of the university whether chance sent you, all the prejudices that came to you by way of inheritance, and all the prejudices you have picked up on your own account as you went along—if you can give all these the slip and manage to live just a little above the clouds and mists of your own generation, why then, with luck, you may be right nine times out of ten in your judgment of a dead author, and ought not to be wrong more frequently than perhaps three times out of seven in the case of a living author; for it is, I repeat, a very difficult thing to tell a good book from a bad one.—*Augustine Birrell*.

**Department of School Libraries****Reflections Suggested by a Book-Agent**

The sets of books whose editors guarantee to give our children a complete literary education "from nursery to high school" in three—five—ten—volumes are familiar to us all. Some are better, some are worse, but none of them have been so attractive to librarians as to parents and school men.

A set may contain many excellent things but when we read that in one volume the children will meet King Arthur, Robin Hood, Ulysses, Coaly Bay, King Alfred, Gulliver, Tolstoi's "Two Pilgrims," Don Quixote, David of Zangwill's "Melting Pot" and "others"; that Diamond, the Arkansas Bear, Martin Avdyeitch, and Little Nell share another volume, we are inclined to hesitate. We wonder if these sturdy folk must not have lost some of their old time strength and vigor. But even if a set proves, upon careful examination, to meet our standards of book selection for children, the price is often such that the librarian can not afford to invest so much money in so few volumes. Yet a set that is well advertised and that has a clever salesman back of it, will be sold by the hundreds, to parents and school men in most communities. My own observation leads me to believe that the poorer set will sell almost as readily as the better set; that often times the buyer will invest in six volumes, enough money to pay for twice the amount of material if he bought from a book seller's "open stock." It seems that librarians and particularly school librarians should look closely for the lessons in the situation.

Upon examining one such set I found that the price per volume was fifty per cent more than the price of the most beautiful volumes listed in the 1920-21 "Book shelf for boys and girls." And I had just been bemoaning the fact that so many of those

books would be "too expensive" for the "average parent!" The ease with which those who sell subscription sets for children talk in what we librarians would be tempted to call "big figures", leads me to think that we have been a little timid in speaking of the price of books. We have felt that we have accomplished a real feat when, thru our recommendation, some parent has bought a three dollar book. As for the few times we have helped spend as much as ten dollars—they were indeed victories. The comparatively wide sale of expensive sets for children suggests that a list "What twenty-five dollars will buy" might be useful at many a book exhibit. I once estimated the cost of the poetry included in a certain set and found that for the price of that poetry I could have bought the Jessie Wilcox Smith "Little Mother Goose," the Grosset and Dunlap edition of "Posy ring," an inexpensive edition of the "Child's garden of verses" and a copy of "Story telling poems"; or I could have bought a copy of Burton Stevenson's "Home book of verse for children" and had money left. In either case, the child in the home would have fared better. My friend had made a bad bargain because she did not know of the many excellent books of poetry that were available and she had heard of a school being proud of owning the subscription set. Others made the same bargain and many have made worse.

Surely librarians do not have a monopoly on the knowledge of children's books and yet it often seems as if they had. The work that librarians have done in formulating principles of book selection for children and in evaluating individual books is of wider general interest than any other single division of library economy. We must "sell" this knowledge over and over again to an ever increasing clientele. A splendid beginning has already been made in our annual book exhibits but there

seems to be need of definite programs for the information of parents and teachers, extending thruout the year.

At least two types of work have already been developed. One librarian recently gave, as a regular part of her work for children, a course in children's literature to a group of earnest mothers and teachers. The result to the students was not only a greater knowledge of children's books, but a broader understanding and appreciation of the purposes of the children's room. They became nuclei from which that understanding grew in the community. Even when such a course can not be given in the library, the librarian may be influential in having such a course given as a part of the work in community training schools for religious workers or in women's clubs.

Another librarian developed a work of real value in connection with her publicity program. Each week she finished a book article for the local press. On alternate weeks, the article was written by the children's librarian on some such subject as "Children's books in the home," "Historical stories for boys," "Child life in other lands," "Reading aloud to children." More publicity directed toward the adults seems to be one of the needs of our children's rooms. The tactful school librarian is able to start a discussion of the making of books in most schools. In a school where technical work is given, a way is open. In a school where classes in literature are prominent, one or more talks can be given on what constitutes a good book, and then the matter is easy. Especially should we take advantage of the opportunity that comes whenever a subscription set for children is being sold in our community. The agents will be doing much good talking concerning the power of books in the life of the child; they will be reaching a very large percentage of the parents and will be starting interests that will be ours to develop after they are gone.

EVA CLOUD TAYLOR.

Oak Park, Ill.

### Grade Lists

The Chicago public library has issued a series of school lists of books to read in the third to the eighth grades inclusive. The well-known titles are interestingly annotated, some annotations are in rhyme, and altogether make an interesting presentation. On the back of the slips, are blanks for the name of the reader and the school attended. This will insure greater care of the slips and the directions to check the books read and the ones liked best, will give an added interest.

### School Libraries in New Jersey

With the cessation of the many demands upon the schools and the children made during the war and demobilization has come increased interest in school libraries. The number of applications made for state aid was greater than ever before and the grade of books listed in the applications was better. In coöperation with helping teachers, county school superintendents and school supervisors, 127 rural schools have been visited, their libraries examined and talks made to the boys and girls. Nineteen of these were high schools.

In Cape May county 32 out of 41 rural schools are provided with small but well-selected libraries. In Camden county every school is provided with a good, if small, library. In towns where there are public libraries the Commission advises that the money for school libraries be turned over to the public library and the management of school libraries be vested in the public library. In the majority of cases this has been done.

The number of schools in which library instruction is being given to the children is increasing. One country high school has included in its curriculum the approved library course for high schools as given in the Passaic high school—this being given by the librarian from a library in the vicinity. Over four thousand lists have been distributed to the schools, and much material for the interscholastic debates.

## News from the Field

## East

Olive Towle, Simmons '19, has joined the staff of the Public library, Newton, Massachusetts.

Gertrude Shaw, Simmons, '16, has been appointed librarian and teacher at the High-school, North Attleboro, Massachusetts.

Dr Winthrop Holt Chenery, formerly librarian of Washington university, St. Louis, and a special student at the New York State library school, '19-20, has been appointed chief of the division of special libraries of the Public library, Boston, Mass.

Elmar T. Boyd has been elected librarian of the Public library, Bangor, Me. Mr Boyd is a native of Bangor, a graduate of Bowdoin college, '95, and has the degree of A.M. from Harvard. He has been a teacher in the Bangor high school for 20 years past. When not engaged in the high school Mr Boyd has been instructor in Greek at the Bangor Theological seminary.

The annual report of the Public library of Malden, Mass., for the year 1920 records a circulation of 291,028 volumes in a population of 49,100; books on the shelves, 76,352; expenditures, \$28,879, of which books and magazines cost \$5,765, salaries \$15,889. The circulation increased 54 per cent in the year and the population 10 per cent.

A meeting held last month in the Public library of Boston developed quite an increase of interest in the proposed extension service which has been under organization for some time in that city, directed by Mr G. W. Lee. The meeting was held at the Public library, at the invitation of Mr Belden, where the information service is already well established.

Plans were announced which will make provision for a card index of coming events and current exhibits in Boston for public consultation. Other indexes giving sources of information on a great variety of subjects will be made available for public consultation.

## Central Atlantic

Katherine E. Wheeler, L. S., N. Y. P. L., '15-17, was recently married to David Francis Porter.

Florence I. Holmes, B. L. S., N. Y. S. '12, has gone to the Public library, East Orange, N. J., as head cataloger.

Ada Johnson, Simmons '16, has joined the cataloging staff of the Hispanic Society of America in New York City.

Julia Coombs, Simmons '18, has been appointed assistant in the Schenley high school library, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Edith Brown, Simmons '14, has been appointed librarian of the Normal school, East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania.

Beatrice Freer, L. S., N. Y. P. L., '13-14, has been appointed assistant librarian of the Helen Frick library, New York City.

Louise M. Boerlage, L. S., N. Y. P. L., '13-18, has been appointed assistant librarian for the U. S. Public Health Service at Ellis Island, New York.

Marion Batchelder, Simmons '19, has been appointed field secretary of the Maryland public library commission, with headquarters at Baltimore.

Ruth Edmonds, L. S., N. Y. P. L., '17-18, was married on December 2 to Albert F. Stoll. Mr and Mrs Stoll reside at 165 Park avenue, East Orange, New Jersey.

Isabel L. Towner, N. Y. S. '07-08, resigned as classifier at the University of Minnesota library, January 1, to become librarian of the National Tuberculosis Association, New York City.

Wharton Miller, N. Y. S. '15-16, was married to Beth Clark Rice at Syracuse, N. Y., December 22.

The first of January Mr Miller became librarian of Union College library, Schenectady, N. Y.

Dorothy Puddington and Laurence Brown, both of the class which received certificates last June at the Library

school of the New York public library, were married at Madison, New Jersey, on December 28. Mr and Mrs Brown will reside at Princeton, New Jersey, Mr Brown being on the staff of Princeton University library.

Some recent changes have occurred in the staff of the Engineering Societies' library, New York City. Mary Ferguson, head of the photostat department, has resigned; Katharine McClay is now in charge of this department. Gratia L. Prouty resigned on November 1. Mrs M. F. Ball, formerly on the staff of the Harvard College library, succeeds Miss Prouty in the order department. Miss Henrietta Kornhauser from the Carnegie library school of Pittsburgh is a new member of the cataloging staff.

The new branch of the Jersey City public library which was opened last April in an abandoned saloon in one of the downtown sections of Jersey City has been so successful that plans have been made to enlarge it by taking over the entire building. The upper floors will be used for adults and the lower floors for the children's work. The circulation for the first nine months that the branch was open was 101,755. The use of books at first was mostly among the children; a large proportion of whom are of foreign parentage. The adult use has steadily increased, however, and the circulation now is about evenly divided between children and grownups.

In its series of "making of" exhibitions the prints division of the New York public library has reached Japanese prints, which will be on exhibition in the print gallery January 15-April 15. Technic is illustrated by tools and pictures, and the application of the process is shown in the choicest color prints in the library's collection. There are early actor prints, and Harunobu, Kiyonaga, Koriusai and especially Utamaro, are strongly represented. Beside their artistic qualities, these color prints, with all their exotic appearance, come close to us in their observation of every-day life. And, what is more significant, they form an expression of racial ideas and ideals.

The prevailing financial inadequacy in library circles made its impress on the Library of Congress in 1920. The higher salaries by research institutions and business houses, as well as those in other government offices, has somewhat depleted the library force. A strong plea is made for an increased appropriation.

In 1920, 164,000 pieces, exclusive of manuscripts, were added to the library shelves. The collections aggregated 4,000,000 items, exclusive of manuscripts, of which 2,800,000 were books and pamphlets.

The Library of Congress, acting as the center for the replenishing of the library at Louvain, Belgium, has sent forward 2,000 volumes collected by the friends of that university.

A specimen of the Caxton print, the "Golden Legend" of Jacobus de Voragine, printed at Westminster about 1485, was acquired.

The Public library of Syracuse, New York, has issued a yearbook of its work giving a résumé of its activities for the year 1920 and the outlook for 1921. Syracuse has a population of 171,717. There are nearly 80 distributing agencies of the Public library and the 156,012 v. are handled by a staff of 34, with 12 supply workers. The number of borrowers reached 70,944. The number using the library for reading and study was 210,557. The total number of volumes lent for home use was 760,852. There was an income of \$82,185 with an expenditure of \$81,940. Of this, \$11,614 was spent for books, \$1939 for periodicals, binding, \$3718, salaries for library service, \$41,768. The circulation, number of books on the shelves and the money expended in the last 10 years has doubled. The yearly additions to the books has only been about  $3\frac{1}{3}$  per cent.

#### Central

Elizabeth P. Clarke, Armour '96, has taken charge of the Public library of Jacksonville, Illinois.

Hazel DeRhodes, Simmons '17, has joined the staff of the Public library, Detroit, Michigan.

Genevieve Drake, Simmons '16, has been appointed an assistant in the Wooster College library, Ohio.

The Public library of Cleveland, Ohio, has received a gift of 1,000 volumes on general literature from Mrs Amasa Stone Mathers.

Marion Abbott, Simmons '18, has resigned her position in the School of Education library at the University of Chicago, to take a rest.

The Cleveland public library authorities feel that the time is more propitious for building than it was a year ago and will again ask for bids for its new building to be erected in the Civic Center in that city.

Lora Bolton, Simmons '17, has resigned her position with the Nebraska library commission, and is to be at her home in Geneva, Nebraska, for the winter.

Miss Frances Earhart has resigned as librarian of Duluth public library to become librarian of the Seventh Corps of the Army, with headquarters at Fort Crook, Nebraska.

Elsie McKay, Simmons special '11, who has been for some months with the Red Cross Headquarters in France, has returned to the Public library, Evansville, Indiana.

It is reported from Iowa that only one town of the 99 that have received Carnegie library buildings has failed to meet its obligations under the gift. This is the smallest library building in the state and in a town of less than 1,000 people.

The budget allowance for the Milwaukee public library for 1921 was set at \$246,258. This is \$41,524 in excess of 1920 allowance, and is the amount asked for by the board of trustees. The library has a permissive mill tax amounting to .3 of a mill of which .264 is mandatory under state statute.

By the terms of the will of the late John E. Wiley of Elmwood, Illinois, his

farm of 600 acres is put in trust and the income of the farm is to be spent for the building and upkeep of a public library for that city. The building of the library will begin when \$25,000 has been saved from the earnings of the farm. After the library is built, \$3,000 shall be set aside each year for the upkeep of the building.

Ferne L. Congdon, Wisconsin, '14, has gone to Public library, Kalamazoo, Mich., as cataloger in the place of Mrs Frances H. Button, resigned.

Elizabeth B. Wales is conducting an apprentice's class and assisting with the branch libraries.

Miss Mary Hughes, Pittsburgh, '14, has become director of the children's work.

At the celebration of Peace Day in Kalamazoo, Michigan, the float of the Public library attracted considerable attention. A truck draped with American flags carried a huge white block with a sign "Public library" on top, "Books for everybody" inscribed on a drawing of a large book on the sides and on the back end of the block, as seen by the public, "Yours for service." Drapings of red and blue at the rear end of the float had a white strip in the center which carried the number of service stars belonging to Kalamazoo.

Mrs Martha Stewart Smith, an early member of the A. L. A., died recently at her home in Chicago. Mrs Smith was the librarian of Pullman public library, Pullman, Illinois, from 1889-97. Her successor was her niece, Miss Bertha S. Ludlan, who is still librarian. Mrs Smith's father was one of the founders of Northwestern University of Evanston, Illinois. Mrs Smith was graduated from that school in 1861 and for some time was the oldest living graduate.

At its monthly meeting in December, 1920, the Milwaukee Public Library board voted to grant three weeks leave with pay, in addition to the regular vacation, to not more than six members of the staff who desire to take a six weeks summer course in library science at the University of Wisconsin

or at some other accredited school. The selection is to be made by the librarian from those who have served acceptably at least one full year in the library.

An increase in salary was granted to the library employes in the upper grades.

In the report of Purdue university, Lafayette, Indiana, some notable accessions are mentioned, such as: Chronicles of America, 50 volumes; The World's best orations, 10 volumes; Writings of Alexander Hamilton, 12 volumes; The Mining library, 9 volumes; Rhodes' History of the United States, 8 volumes. Other notable gifts were: 168v. on mathematics and physics; 45v. on medicine and zoology; the Catholic encyclopedia and Schurz's Speeches and correspondence.

The total recorded use of the library was 59,707v. About 40 lectures on the use of the library were given to Freshmen and Sophomore classes in the English department.

The county branch system of the Milwaukee public library has been extended so that every resident of the county is within walking distance of a branch library. Nearly all of the rural schools in the county contain branch libraries, except in cases where they are located near one of the main branches. This county system was organized under a state law passed in 1913. In 1917 the library was authorized to levy a fee of 10c for the circulation of each book to cover cost of operation,  $2\frac{1}{2}$ c of which goes to the librarian in charge. This is a mandatory charge upon the county board which is apportioned among the towns, villages and cities of the county according to book circulation in each division.

#### **South**

Miss Ruth Hammond has been appointed librarian of the Public library of Muskogee, Oklahoma.

The Oklahoma library commission is offering a twenty-five volume school library as the prize for the best five hundred word article on "The use of the traveling library," written by a pupil or teacher in the rural and grade schools of Oklahoma.

The board of the Public library of Louisville, Kentucky, has asked for an increased appropriation in the budget for 1921 of \$22,754 or a total of \$111,163.

Ten reasons given for the increase are as follows: Deficit in income from bequests; increase in insurance of \$2,060; coal cost, shows an increase of \$2,225. The cost of books has increased as well as binding, and even if the increase asked for is allowed, only half the number of books purchased last year will be available; 77 titles of magazines have been discontinued and all out-of-town newspapers. The pay-roll asks for an increase of \$9,157. Last year, lack of funds and depleted staff caused the closing of civics and teachers' rooms and the shortening of hours at the main library. Increased cost of light, power, repairs, furniture and fixtures are sure, and these things are absolutely necessary.

The maintenance fund for last year produced a circulation of 1,109,253v. In comparing work and cost of maintenance in 26 principal cities, Louisville library ranks 18 in the circulation of books but last of the 26 in amount of money expended.

#### **West**

Two new branch libraries are reported in Denver and room for the third library has been reserved in a community house which is being built as a gift for the city.

Elizabeth K. Clark, Pratt '07, resigned as head of the catalog department of the Duluth public library to accept the position of head cataloger in the University of Idaho library at Moscow.

Rose Kahan, L. S., N. Y. P. L., '13-15, who has been connected with the cataloging department of the Portland Library Association, Oregon, has been appointed cataloger in the Montana State college of agriculture, Bozeman.

#### **Pacific Coast**

Helen Toombs, Simmons '09, has been appointed head of circulation at the State college of Washington, at Pullman.

Miss Charlotte Bergoust, Washington '20, formerly assistant in the circulation department of the University of Wash-

ington library, has been appointed senior assistant in the circulation department of the Tacoma public library.

F. Piercie Donald, for some years an assistant in the Tacoma public library, part of the time serving as acting branch librarian, has resigned to accept the position of children's librarian in the Albina branch of the Portland library association, Oregon.

Raymond Holmes, formerly of the Milwaukee and Tacoma public libraries, and for nearly two years an assistant in the Camp Lewis library, has been appointed in the reference and circulation departments of the Tacoma public library beginning January 3, 1921. Mr Holmes graduated from the University of Washington in 1920.

#### Foreign

Miss Nasra Odeh, one of the foreign students who attended Simmons, 1910-11, has left the Newark public library and is on her way home to Bombay, India.

Mary Rogers, Simmons '16, has returned from Serbia, where she has been for more than a year as a social worker with children in the medical unit of the Serbian Relief Commission.

Helen Janeway, L. S., N. Y. P. L., '16-18, was married on November 27 to Henry R. Griffen, Jr. Mr and Mrs Griffen have sailed for Rio de Janeiro, where Mr Griffen is engaged in engineering work.

In answer to the appeal for books for Louvain university, 260 volumes from duplicate collections were donated. The income for the year was £16,036. The total number of volumes in the library is 332,092, of which 13,648 were added during the year.

It is stated that many German professors who are hard hit by heavy taxation and the high cost of living are sending many rare and valuable volumes into the book market. Large collections of these are being bought to restock the shelves of the Louvain library destroyed by the Germans during the war. No library building yet exists in Louvain to receive the new

## 4 New U. P. C. Books

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This new manual fills a long felt want, for it tells in plain English how to figure the proper sizes of articles, how to take off the material required from the plans of any sheet metal job, how to buy material and cut it to advantage for different work, how to figure the actual overhead expense for any department, or kind of work handled in your own shop, and explains the special risks to be considered in making bids, financing, etc.

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books which are scattered whenever temporary accommodations can be found for them.

The annual report of the Public library of Victoria, Australia, gives the number of volumes as 349,712. The library has had a large increase in the number of readers, particularly in the technical section. The library was limited in its service by the lack of funds. A loan of 5956v. was made to 48 county libraries and other outside educational agencies.

The annual report of the Public library of the city and county of Belfast, Ireland, shows a circulation of 626,481 volumes, a decrease of 40,274 from the previous year. The decrease is divided between the central library and the four branches. A notable gift to the library was a collection of books dealing with the textile industry, many of which are in foreign languages and some are old and rare.

The number of borrowers' cards is 23,271, including 5,332 students' tickets.

There is appended to the report a roll of honor containing 11 names of members of the staff who joined the colors. One of these was killed in action.

A proposition has been made by Rev. J. B. Langstaff, editor, of Magdalene College House, to transform the house in London where Charles Dickens spent a part of his boyhood, into a library for children. The period spent here was that in his own life as described in *David Copperfield* before he went to school, while he was employed in pasting labels on bottles. It is hoped to raise £20,000 to provide in the books for boys and girls of the present and future, a different atmosphere from that to which he was condemned. The movement has the support of persons of position in England and is presided over by Mr. Edmund Gosse.

In the deplorable fire which occurred in the city of Cork, Ireland, in December, 1920, the Carnegie library, which was doing most admirable work, was destroyed. Here is a chance for the public libraries of America to show some of the fraternal spirit which was

called upon to restore the libraries destroyed in Belgium.

The Free library of Cork was one of the best public libraries in Ireland and stood high in the esteem of the members of the Library Association.

The building was a variant of Elizabethan architecture and possessed a very imposing frontage, the entrance opening on to a spacious hall with direct access to the main rooms—lending, reference and news rooms, each being 60x30 feet. In addition there was a juvenile section and a ladies' reading-room. A committee and librarian's room completed a well-arranged library.

There was provision in the building for the family residence in the upper part of the building. The librarian and his family were obliged to leave the burning building scantily clad, without saving any of their property. The library lost many valuable books dealing with local history which are irreplaceable.

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**For Sale**—25 Bulldog magazine, various sizes. Address H. S. library, Highland Park, Ill.

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**Wanted**—Cataloger. Salary \$120 to \$125 a month. Library school training and experience desired. Address Public Library, Seattle, Wash.

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**Wanted**—Children's librarian in a western city of 15,000. Give qualifications, references and age. Address Room 200, Tower Building, Chicago.

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